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**DECISION TIME:** Hunter Biden will have to stay calm under a brutal cross-examination if he takes the stand in his federal gun trial, legal experts say.

## DELAWARE

# Defense weighs Hunter Biden testimony

By **JEFF MORDOCK AND ALEX SWOYER**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**WILMINGTON, DEL.** | Hunter Biden and his attorneys spent the weekend debating whether he should take the stand to defend himself in his federal gun trial, which legal experts say would be a dangerous gamble.

This is a major strategy shift for Hunter Biden's attorneys after a disastrous first day for the defense on Friday, which included testy exchanges with their witnesses.

Hunter Biden would have to be the "world's best witness" to keep his cool

## Strategy after disastrous day suggests risky gamble to arouse jury sympathy

under a brutal cross-examination to prevent further damage, said Rod Phelan, a Dallas-based lawyer and expert litigator. "He has got a lot of water to carry, and I would be surprised if they put him on," he told The Washington Times. "I can't imagine that he could hold up under that kind of cross-examination."

Cooley Law School professor Jeffrey D. Swartz agreed that Hunter Biden should not testify.

Even if the defense is aiming for nullification from a sympathetic jury, attorneys don't need to put Hunter Biden on the stand, he said.

"Everything he has to say was read out of his book in his own voice," Mr. Swartz said. "As far as I can see, he has nothing to add that isn't in his book."

The prosecution used the audiobook of Hunter Biden's 2021 memoir to establish his drug use around the time he

bought a handgun.

"I have a feeling there is more than one juror there that has a family member who has had to deal with addiction," he said. "I wouldn't put him on."

Hunter Biden is charged with making two false statements when he claimed not to be an addict or illegal drug user on the federal background check to purchase a Colt Cobra .38 Special revolver at a Wilmington gun shop in October 2018. He is also charged with being a drug addict in unlawful possession of the weapon for 11 days.

» see **BIDEN** | **A4**

## IMMIGRATION

# Rebranding of ICE aims to placate sanctuaries

## Chief seeks more deportation beds

By **STEPHEN DINAN**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The federal government's relationship with sanctuary cities has become so strained that some jurisdictions automatically reject emails from ICE.gov addresses, the agency's acting director told The Washington Times.

The problem, Patrick Lechleitner said, is that sanctuaries refuse to cooperate not only with his deportation division but also with **Exclusive** criminal investigators. Homeland Security Investigations pursues sex traffickers, child pornographers and gangs, in addition to migrant smugglers and document fraudsters.

For years, leaders at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement hoped to persuade sanctuaries to cooperate with the immigration and criminal law enforcement missions.

Mr. Lechleitner said something had to give.

"What we can control within the department is rebranding so people can actually know what we are doing," he told The Times in an exclusive interview. "So that's kind of where the HSI branding came from: It's allowing HSI to get their message out there and to do their jobs in a more meaningful way with jurisdictions that quite frankly are more reticent to deal with them."

He has given HSI a new internet home under DHS.gov. The Homeland Security Department oversees ICE.

That alone should solve the issue of sanctuary jurisdictions rejecting HSI emails.

He also has restructured task forces and issued guidance to further separate HSI from the deportation side of the agency. The goal is to give HSI more

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## NORTH KOREA

# Totalitarian state weaves spyware net



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

**DIRTY WEAPON:** South Korean soldiers wear protective gear as they clean up trash from balloons sent by North Korea. The "filth balloon" offensive is meant to counter an information warfare campaign by private activist groups in the South.

## Digital monitors aim to keep citizens in lockstep with paranoid Kim regime

By **ANDREW SALMON**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA** | North Korea's recent "filth balloon" offensive against South Korea highlighted the depth of the paranoia in the regime of Kim Jong-un about information infiltration.

In the past couple of weeks, Pyongyang has been releasing balloons carrying garbage and manure over the Demilitarized Zone in retaliation for balloons launched by activists in the South. Private groups, not the government in Seoul, are waging information warfare against Mr. Kim and his elites.

Pyongyang has maintained near-total control over domestic information via a triple-tier system of human surveillance. Mr. Kim's regime now appears to be trying to buttress this system by using a

high-technology, Chinese-style spyware system to keep out unwanted messages.

North Korea operates a localized intranet unconnected to the global internet. Since 2002, it has run cellular services installed by the Egyptian telecommunications firm Orascom, which has reportedly been unable to collect on its contract because of foreign exchange controls.

Experts say the North's attempts to install digital surveillance networks have been hobbled by an inconsistent power supply, limited network capacities and a lack of hardware. For authoritarian states not restrained by privacy laws, digital networks and networked devices offer various methods to monitor citizens.

"One of the things that is impossible

» see **NORTH KOREA** | **A5**

## CHINA

# Beijing's power elite use kin to hide wealth

## Investments defy Xi's war on graft

By **BILL GERTZ**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Senior Chinese leaders, including President Xi Jinping, are engaged in corruption and hiding hundreds of millions of dollars in wealth by using relatives to disguise their activities, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service.

By 2012, Mr. Xi had amassed at least \$376 million in company investments, an indirect 18% stake in a rare-earth mineral company worth more than \$311 million, and \$20.2 million holdings in a technology company, according to a CRS report based on published information from news outlets about the hidden wealth.

"Publicly available information on the wealth and/or corruption of currently serving senior CPC leaders is limited," the report said.

"The [Communist Party of China] does not require its officials to publicly disclose their assets. CPC and PRC media controls ensure that any non-state sanctioned reporting on, or discussion of the wealth and corruption of top leaders or their relatives either does not appear or is quickly removed from the [People's Republic of China] media ecosystem."

The CRS produced the document for members of Congress in advance of a congressionally mandated report from Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines required under 2022 legislation.

The DNI report was due to Congress in December. A spokeswoman for Ms. Haines said in April that the director was aware of the reporting requirement and analysts were working on the study.

The DNI report was directed to include details of corruption by Mr. Xi and other senior Chinese leaders.

The intelligence report is expected to undermine Mr. Xi's 12-year

» see **CHINA** | **A5**

## TREASURY

# Yellen blames union for empty IRS offices after calls to return to work

By **STEPHEN DINAN**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The IRS is struggling to get its employees back to work in person at least 50% of the time, and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the agency's labor union is the chief hurdle.

In striking testimony to Congress, Ms. Yellen suggested that the department may have to renegotiate contracts to get those employees back to their desks more often.

"Some of the employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements. They are members of a union, and to enforce those rules requires an agreement with the union," she told the Senate Appropriations Committee last week.

Ms. Yellen disputed data suggesting that the Treasury Department headquarters building could be downsized. She said she thinks her space is "fully utilized."

Pressure is mounting on the Biden administration to either fulfill its promise

to return federal employees to work after the COVID-19 public health emergency or sell off the vacant office space.

A March report by the Public Buildings Reform Board found that the Treasury was using just 22% of its space in its historic headquarters next to the White House.

The reform board found that the Agriculture Department filled just 6% of its space and the Department of Housing and Urban Development was using 11%.

Sen. Susan M. Collins, Maine Republican, asked Ms. Yellen about the trouble with getting IRS employees into the office.

Ms. Collins said the latest data shows the IRS funneled about half of its taxpayer inquiries this year to automated responses instead of live customer service representatives.

The senator then pointed out that the IRS requires employees to be in the office for half their workdays.

"Why only half?" she wondered.

She cited data from the IRS inspector general showing that in the final months of 2023, employees worked in person just 37% of the time, teleworked 22% of the time and did "hybrid" work 40% of the time.

Ms. Yellen blamed the union contracts. Ms. Collins suggested that "those contracts need to be renegotiated with the taxpayers' interests in mind."

"Agreed," Ms. Yellen said.

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## POLITICS

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VOLUME 42, NUMBER 116



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HOLA REPUBLICANOS

Former President Donald Trump’s campaign has revealed that a new coalition of voters has stepped up to boost his quest for the White House. Latino Americans for Trump has arrived — described by Mr. Trump’s campaign as “a coalition with notable members of Latino communities from across the country, leaders in all fields, including industry, trade, education, sports, faith, communications, and elected officials.”

This particular demographic is a powerful one. “Latinos have grown at the second-fastest rate of any major racial and ethnic group in the U.S. electorate since the last presidential election. An estimated 36.2 million are eligible to vote this year, up from 32.3 million in 2020. This represents 50% of the total growth in eligible voters during this time,” the Pew Research Center noted in an extensive report released in January.

The Trump campaign appears confident that Latinos could be interested.

“Under President Trump, the Latino American community saw a record low unemployment rate. Under [President] Biden, Latino Americans have been left behind, burdened with higher prices, soaring interest rates, and lower wages. Inflation and the failure of Bidenomics will be a major issue facing Latinos in 2024, as well as high crime rates and the affordability of housing — issues where Biden has failed miserably,” Mr. Trump’s campaign said in a statement Sunday.

“Latinos favor immigration policies that allow the orderly and legal entry and formalization of immigrants to the United States, and, consequently, they disapprove of how millions have been allowed to cross the border illegally. Latino voters ‘overwhelmingly’ trust President Trump over Biden on his approach to address border



Former President Donald Trump’s campaign has revealed that the Latino Americans for Trump has stepped up as a new coalition of voters to boost his quest for the White House.

security and immigration,” the statement said. “Latino Americans for Trump stands unified in its support of President Trump and our members will be working tirelessly to spread his winning messages of a strong economy, lower prices, a secure border, and peace through strength at home and abroad,” it also noted.

ON THE RADAR

The National Right to Life’s 52nd annual convention is scheduled to begin June 23 just outside the nation’s capital — billed as “The Essential Pro-Life Educational Event” for participants. “During this two-day educational and training event, national experts on life issues gather in one place to equip pro-lifers from across the country with the knowledge and skills needed to advance our cause,” says an advance notice for the event, scheduled for the Crystal City neighborhood of Arlington. “There will be several general sessions and smaller breakout sessions. All will feature pro-life leaders who advocate for unborn children and their mothers, persons with disabilities, older people, and vulnerable people who cannot

defend themselves,” the notice said. The keynote speaker for the organization’s convivial gala is former White House secretary Kayleigh McEnany, a co-host of “Outnumbered” on Fox News. The Rev. Paul D. Scalia, pastor of St. James Catholic Church in Falls Church, will be the speaker for the organization’s annual prayer breakfast. Rep. Kat Cammack, Florida Republican, is also on the speaker’s roster. Find more information at [nrlconvention.com](http://nrlconvention.com).

THE REAGAN FACTOR

Here’s more on the Trump campaign: Sen. Tom Cotton — a potential vice presidential pick for presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump — is in harmony with Mr. Trump on an influential issue. “I think President Trump and I have long been aligned on foreign policy. We both subscribe to what you might say was Ronald Reagan’s vision, which is peace through strength. For four years with President Trump in the White House, we had peace and stability around the globe. We didn’t have wars breaking out in Europe and the Middle East and being threatened in Asia,” the Arkansas Republican told “Fox News Sunday” anchor Shannon Bream. “We believe that you sometimes have to use military force in discriminate fashion the way President Trump did when he authorized a strike against Iran’s terrorist mastermind Qassim Soleimani. We believe that we need to pressure allies to take more responsibility for funding our common defense or taking responsibility for what’s happening in their own region, in part because America needs to take the lead against China in the Western Pacific to preserve peace and stability there,” Mr. Cotton said. “I believe President Trump and I are aligned on foreign policy, just like Ronald Reagan was. This policy is a peace through strength strategy — which is where the vast majority of not just Republicans, but normal Americans think. Only these pro-Hamas, anti-American lunatics in the Democratic Party think that America is to blame for what’s happening in the world or that we

should retreat from strength and confidence in the world,” he advised.

MEANWHILE IN ALASKA

Alaska’s capital is set to become the first city in the state to limit the number of daily cruise ship tourists. “Under the terms of a new voluntary agreement between the city of Juneau and effective in 2026, the nation’s four largest cruise lines will schedule ships containing no more than 16,000 standard beds in Juneau per day,” reports Arctic Today, a news organization based in Anchorage. Locals are now complaining about overcrowding, housing shortages and air pollution. “Juneau, a city of 32,000 residents, welcomes more than 1.6 million visitors annually, and on peak days, more than 21,000 tourists may visit by cruise ship,” the report said. “By number of ships and number of visitors, Juneau is the most popular whale-watching destination in the world, the city claims. The Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, located within city bounds and operated by the U.S. Forest Service, is the most-visited tourist attraction in Alaska,” Arctic Today also noted.

POLL DU JOUR

- 77% of U.S. adults say they have experienced “sticker shock” on the price of groceries.
  - 54% have had sticker shock on the price of gas, 51% on the price of dining out.
  - 41% have had sticker shock from the cost of utilities, 30% on the price of clothes.
  - 29% have had sticker shock on the price of travel, 22% on the price of electronics.
  - 17% have had sticker shock on the price of magazines or other media subscriptions.
  - 5% have had sticker shock on some “other” expense.
  - 5% have not had sticker shock.
- SOURCE: A CNET/YOUGOV ONLINE SURVEY OF 2,392 U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED MAY 6-8 AND RELEASED JUNE 7.
- Follow Jennifer Harper on X @HarperBulletin, on Facebook @HarperUniverse.

CAMPAIGN 2024

# Poll finds Trump guilty verdict ‘not a factor’ in deadlocked presidential race

By VALERIE RICHARDSON  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Donald Trump’s conviction in the hush-money trial barely budged the needle in the 2024 presidential race, a contest that remains too close to call, according to a newly released poll. A CBS News/YouGov poll released Sunday found that 55% of likely voters said that the New York jury’s guilty verdict May 31 is “not a factor” in their decision on the presidential candidates, while 28% called it a “major factor” and 17% said it was a “minor factor.” Among voters nationally, the contest stood at 50% for Mr. Trump and 49% for President Biden. In the battleground states, it was the reverse, with 49% favoring Mr. Trump and 50% backing Mr. Biden. “Voters say Donald Trump’s guilty verdict pales in importance compared to issues like the economy, inflation, and the border, so while it

hasn’t dramatically reshaped the Presidential race, that race today is essentially tied in likely voter preference nationally, and across the battleground states,” the polling analysis said. Most Republicans also see the charges as Trumped-up: Fully 80% believe Mr. Trump was charged on “directions from the Biden administration,” while 94% of Democrats credited “directions from local prosecutors.” Where the verdict may have influenced the race lies with the motivations of Biden supporters. A majority, or 54%, of Biden voters now say that their main reason for supporting the Democratic incumbent is “to oppose Trump,” up from 47% in March. Only 27% of Biden voters said that their primary motivation is that “I like Biden,” down from 31% in March. Mr. Biden does best with voters who are focused on his opponent. For Americans who see the race as a “judgment about Trump,” Mr. Biden wins 66-34%.

Those who view the contest as a “judgment about Biden” swing for Mr. Trump by 66-34%. The Republican also comes out ahead when the race is framed as “comparing Biden and Trump,” with 53% for Mr. Trump and 47% for Mr. Biden. The leading driver for voters still comes down to their pocketbooks: 81% cited the economy as their top issue, followed by inflation, the “state of democracy,” crime, the southern border, and firearms policy. Just 28% led with the “Trump conviction.” In terms of personal qualities, voters see Mr. Trump as more “tough,” “energetic,” “effective” and “competent,” while Mr. Biden is viewed as more “compassionate.” The poll conducted June 5-7 with 2,063 U.S. adult residents includes an oversample for Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. The margin of error is +/-3.2% among all adults and +/-3.8% among registered voters.



A new poll found that 55% of likely voters said that the New York jury’s hush money guilty verdict against former President Donad Trump is “not a fctor” in their decision on presidential candidates.



SUPREME COURT  
Justices disclose gifts under new rules

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas declared two trips with billionaire Harlan Crow, his Republican megadonor friend, in financial disclosures filed for the past year. Meanwhile, the court’s newest member, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, disclosed she was given nearly \$4,000 worth of Beyonce tickets. “Justice Jackson is crazy in love with Beyonce’s music. Who isn’t?” Supreme Court spokeswoman Patricia McCabe told The Washington Post. Justice Jackson also had a book advance of more than \$893,000. She is reportedly writing about her family history through segregation. Justice Thomas visited Bali and a private California club with Mr. Crow in 2019. He previously didn’t disclose the trips, saying there was no requirement to do so. Since then, the court has adopted ethics and disclosure changes. The revelation comes after ProPublica published a series of articles last year about Justice Thomas and Mr. Crow’s financial ties.


— Alex Swoyer

GAZA WAR  
Barr: Hostage rescue refutes cease-fire

Rep. Andy Barr believes that if the White House’s wishes for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war were active, four Israeli hostages

REPUBLICANS

Noem returns to Sunday talk shows, gets grilled again on dog shooting



Noem

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem returned to the Sunday talk shows after being ripped last month for shooting her dog, but unlike the ill-fated canine, the story just won’t die. Ms. Noem once again defended the decision to include the dog-shooting incident in her book “No Going Back,” telling CNN anchor Dana Bash in a testy Sunday interview that she was protecting her children from a dangerous animal. Asked whether she had “regrets” about sharing the tale, Ms. Noem pushed back, saying “That story’s the 20-year-old story of a mom who made a very difficult decision to protect her children from a vicious animal that was attacking livestock, and killing livestock, and attacking people.” “It’s in the book because it was difficult for me, and there’s a lot in that book that I think people need to read,” said Ms. Noem, a Republican. “I don’t know if you’ve read it or not.” Ms. Bash said she had “read the whole thing.” Ms. Noem replied: “Oh, good, well, I’m glad you did. Thank you for doing that,” then pivoted to the 2024 presidential election. “But there’s a lot in that book that’s very

important,” she said. “I hope people will read it because it’s a how-to guide for the average citizen on how to get their government back.” Like a pup with a bone, however, Ms. Bash refused to drop the matter, saying, “What I’m hearing is no regrets, not just about writing about it, but actually shooting the dog.” Ms. Noem shot back with “We’ve covered this.” She then said that a 9-year-old South Dakota boy was recently killed by a dog. “That happens. And that 9-year-old boy will never be in his parents’ lives again,” Ms. Noem said. “He’ll never be in his family’s lives again. People are put in tough situations in life, and we learn from it.”

— Valerie Richardson

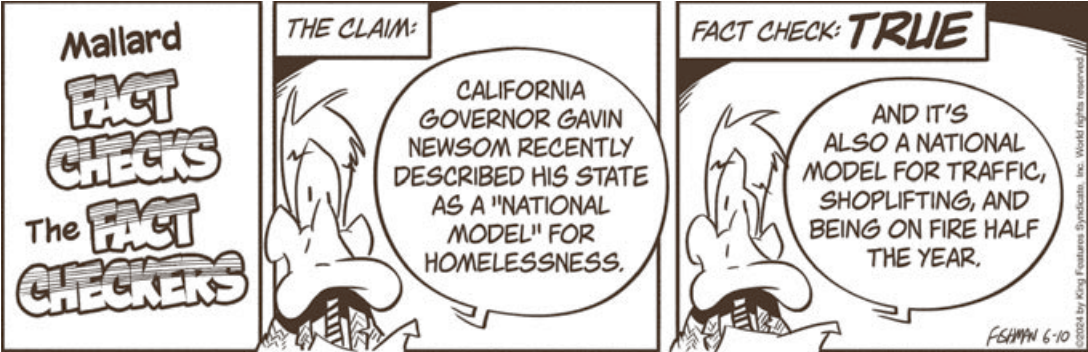
2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION  
Biden ad cites debunked Trump quotes

A new ad from President Biden slammed former President Donald Trump for debunked comments on soldiers from five years ago. Mr. Biden’s campaign released the one-minute video after he gave a speech at Pointe du Hoc in France amid the 80th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy. The ad, called “What Trump Thinks,” which used the backdrop of rows of white cross headstones at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, included Mr. Trump’s reported quotes disparaging troops from a 2019 magazine article that his advisers proved was false. The campaign ad also hit on Mr. Trump’s

feud with the late Sen. John McCain, who was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. Mr. Trump’s campaign was quick to hit back at the ad in a response video. Trump spokesman Steven Cheung attacked Mr. Biden’s past transgressions against veterans and service members in the video, noting that when he was vice president, he called soldiers “stupid [expletive]” during a military base address. Mr. Biden also was seen looking at his watch during the transfer of soldiers who died in the Kabul airport bombings in 2021. The latest ad comes on the heels of another Biden campaign video that included three veterans calling Mr. Trump a “draft dodger.”

— Alex Miller

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



The Washington Times

The Washington Times (ISSN 0732-8494) is published Monday through Friday.  
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Politics

CAMPAIGN 2024

Trump pledges to stop IRS classification of tips as taxable income

Woos restaurant workers at Las Vegas rally

By SETH McLAUGHLIN  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Donald Trump vowed Sunday during a campaign stop in Nevada to stop the IRS from classifying restaurant tips as taxable income, sending a clear overture to the swing state's huge pool of hospitality workers.

Mr. Trump said the change in federal tax law is long overdue.

"When I get to office, we are not going to charge taxes on tips — people making tips," Mr. Trump said at a campaign rally in Las Vegas. "We are not going to do it, and we are going to do it right away."

"It has been a point of contention for years and years and years, and you do a great job of service, you take care of people and I think it is going to be something that is really deserved," said the former president whose pre-political life included building, investing in and branding with numerous casinos and other high-end service businesses.

The rally at Sunset Park was Mr. Trump's first since being found guilty of 34 felony counts related to falsifying business records to cover up hush-money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels ahead of the 2016 election.

The verdict has not shaken the confidence of his supporters, including the horde of attendees who turned out Sunday in scorching temperatures and at one point serenaded the soon-to-be 78-year-old with an impromptu singing of "Happy Birthday."

Still, the jury is out on whether the convictions will help or hurt him with slices of the broader electorate

Mr. Trump is trying to become the first Republican to carry Nevada in a presidential race since George W. Bush in 2004.

"If we win Nevada, we win the whole thing," Mr. Trump said Sunday.

Mr. Biden defeated Mr. Trump in Nevada by 2 percentage points four years ago thanks in part to the strong support he received from the powerful Culinary Union Local 226, a heavily-minority group representing hotel, casino and restaurant workers.

This go-round Mr. Trump has held a steady lead in Nevada polls and his campaign is optimistic about his chances of making inroads with Hispanic voters, who play a major role in Silver State elections.

In a statement Sunday, the Culinary Union derided Mr. Trump's "wild campaign promise."

"For decades, the Culinary Union has fought for tipped workers' rights and against unfair taxation. Relief is definitely needed for tip earners, but Nevada workers are smart enough to know the difference between real solutions and wild campaign promises from a convicted felon," Culinary Union Secretary-Treasurer Ted Pappageorge said.

At the rally, Mr. Trump said the Biden border "nightmare" is hurting American workers across the country — particularly minority workers — and weakening unions.

"They are destroying our Black population, they are totally destroying our Hispanic population and you know what else they are destroying?" Mr. Trump said. "They are killing unions because



"When I get to office, we are not going to charge taxes on tips — people making tips," former President Donald Trump vowed Sunday at a campaign rally in Las Vegas. "We are not going to do it, and we are going to do it right away."

the unions are not able to survive."

Mr. Trump's post-conviction message has mirrored his pre-conviction message.

He casts a Biden victory in apocalyptic terms, warning it would increase the prospect of a nuclear war.

A CBS You Gov poll released over the weekend found Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump running neck-and-neck in

battleground states.

Mr. Biden has struggled to generate a lot of excitement around his bid, but he continues to benefit from the depth of the anti-Trump sentiment that helped power him to victory four years ago.

More than half of Mr. Biden's supporters in the CBS poll said the chief reason they plan to vote for him is to oppose Mr. Trump.

ECONOMY

Half of newly created jobs in U.S. go to immigrants

By STEPHEN DINAN  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Roughly half of the new jobs created in the U.S. economy since October have gone to immigrants, many of them in the country illegally, according to a new analysis by the House Budget Committee.

The Labor Department released its latest employment data Friday showing the economy added jobs, but the overall labor participation rate ticked down and the unemployment rate ticked up to 4%.

"Furthermore, nearly half of all job growth since October can be attributed to various immigrant groups, including illegal immigrants, showing a far weaker economy than suggested," the GOP-led budget committee said.

The foreign-born population filled 840,000 new jobs from November to now, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The role of migrants in the labor force looms large in the political debate.

Democrats have pleaded for the migrants to take jobs since large cities have been swamped with illegal immigrants settling in their jurisdictions and relying on government assistance after being caught and released by the Biden administration.

Economists say the migrant labor is good for the overall U.S. economy, boosting productivity and raising the country's gross domestic product. It's not so good for the average worker, particularly for those who end up having to compete with illegal immigrants.

Those are generally less-educated Americans on the lower-income rungs.

MIDDLE EAST

Cotton rips blaming of Israel for casualties in hostage rescue

By VALERIE RICHARDSON  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Those chastising the Israeli Defense Forces over its hostage-rescue casualty count might want to refocus their ire on the kidnappers themselves, as far as supporters of Israel are concerned.

Sen. Tom Cotton, Arkansas Republican, blasted leftists and establishment media outlets for second-guessing the Israeli Defense Forces mission that saved four Israelis held by Hamas since the terrorist group's Oct. 7 attack on Israeli civilians.

"I'm very dismayed by sources from the progressive left here in America, to include the New York Times and Washington Post, who are somehow condemning Israel for saving four hostages at the cost of supposedly more than 200 Palestinians," Mr. Cotton said on "Fox News Sunday."

The New York Times came under criticism for a Saturday headline that said, "Hostages Return Home After Israeli Assault That Killed Scores of Gazans," a framing that former New York Assemblyman Dov Hikind called "outrageous."

"The New York Times is the best friend that Hamas could possibly have," Mr. Hikind said in a Sunday video post. "Shame on the New York Times. If you are still buying the New York Times, stop."

On the other side were critics who chided the newspaper for using "scores" instead of "hundreds."

The Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health said Sunday that 274 Palestinians were killed in the raid, while the IDF estimated Saturday that the mission resulted in fewer than 100 casualties. The Ministry also does not distinguish between Palestinian civilians and Hamas fighters.

The four hostages — Noa Argamani, 26; Almog Meir Jan, 22; Andrey Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 41 — were found in two apartments in a residential area of Nuseirat in southern Gaza, according to the IDF.

"Now, we can't take at face value what Hamas says through the supposed Gaza Ministry of Health," Mr. Cotton said. "But my advice to them would be: If you don't want your people killed in hostage rescue missions, then you shouldn't take hostages in the first place ... and you certainly shouldn't hide them in civilian areas."

Those asking whether the juice was worth the squeeze included Daily Beast columnist Wajahat Ali, who said on X: "Is killing more than 200 Palestinian civilians worth 4 Israeli hostages? A question worth asking on the record."

Francesca Albanese, U.N. special rapporteur for the Palestinian-controlled territories, said she was relieved the hostages had been "released," but that it came at too high a cost.

"It should not have come at the expense of at least 200 Palestinians, including children, killed



A Palestinian runs away from an Israeli tank Sunday. Sen. Tom Cotton blasted liberals who condemned Israel for Palestinian deaths in the hostage rescue.

and over 400 injured by Israel and allegedly foreign soldiers, while perfidiously hiding in an aid truck," she said on X.

BBC anchor Helena Humphrey asked former IDF spokesperson Jonathan Conricus why Israel didn't warn the Gazans ahead of the mission.

He replied that doing so would have doomed the hostages.

"We can't anticipate Israel to be warning ahead of a raid to extract or to save hostages because then what the terrorists would do is to kill the hostages, and that would defeat the purpose," Mr. Conricus said.

Mr. Conricus, a senior fellow with the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, said the lines between combatants and civilians in Gaza are often blurred.

"By the way, the people who were guarding and forcing the Israeli civilians to stay there were Palestinian civilians," Mr. Conricus told Fox News. "It's all a civilian situation here."

Indeed, the IDF said Sunday that one of those housing the hostages at his apartment was journalist Abdallah Aljamal, whose credentials included co-authoring a 2019 article for Al-Jazeera headlined "Tales of torture from Israel's prisons," as shown on the Al Jazeera website.

"Journalist" Abdallah Aljamal was a Hamas terrorist holding Almog, Andrey and Shlomi hostage in his family's home in Nuseirat, said the IDF on X. "No press vest can make him innocent of the crimes he has committed."

Omar al-Walid, Al-Jazeera Jerusalem bureau chief, denied any connection to Aljamal, who was killed in the raid.

"This man is not from Al-Jazeera, and he did not work for Al-Jazeera at all, and he is not listed as working for Al-Jazeera neither now nor in the past," Mr. al-Walid told the Times of Israel. "We do not know him, and all the rumors that have been spread are empty of content and not true at all."



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HOUSE

# Donalds: Democrats created Jim Crow rules that terrorized Blacks

## Says the people were more conservative

By **KERRY PICKET**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Rep. Byron Donalds slammed House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries again Friday for claiming the Florida Republican made remarks that Blacks in the U.S. were better off during the days of Jim Crow.

“I’m not going to stand here and listen to Hakeem Jeffries lecture me. When the truth of the matter is, if you want to talk about Jim Crow, Jim Crow was Democrat Party policies that led to the disenfranchisement, frankly, the terror against Black people in America,” Mr. Donalds said during an interview on Fox News.

“That’s one of the reasons why Black people during that time period were voting much more conservatively and have always been conservative-minded,” he added. “That’s the overall point — if we’re going to be technical about the history.”

Mr. Donalds noted that the marriage rate among Black Americans declined rapidly after the 1960s passage of many Great Society policies and called them

“destructive.”

Mr. Donalds and Mr. Jeffries began sparring after the Floridian made comments at a Black GOP outreach event in Philadelphia recently about how the Black family during the 1950s and ‘60s was held together with fathers, then became more dependent on government because of President Lyndon Johnson’s big-spending programs.

“During Jim Crow, the Black family was together,” Mr. Donalds said, as first reported by The Philadelphia Inquirer. “During Jim Crow, more Black people were not just conservative, because Black people always have been conservative-minded — but more Black people voted conservatively.”

Mr. Jeffries, New York Democrat, piled on Mr. Donalds.

“It has come to my attention that a



Jeffries



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Rep. Byron Donalds ripped House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries for saying the Florida Republican made remarks that Blacks in the U.S. were better off during the days of Jim Crow. Mr. Donalds said Democrat policies helped destroy the Black family.

so-called leader has made the factually inaccurate statement that Black folks were better off during Jim Crow,” Mr. Jeffries said during remarks on the House floor as he rattled off negatives from the Jim Crow era, including lynching and the intimidation of Black voters.

“How dare you make such an ignorant observation? You better check yourself before you wreck yourself.”

Mr. Donalds shot back on a video posted to X, saying Democrats are “trying to say I said Black people were doing better under Jim Crow. I never said that.

They are lying.

“What I said was you had more Black families under Jim Crow, and it was the Democrat policies under [Health, Education and Welfare], under the welfare state, that did help to destroy the Black family.”

# BIDEN

From page **A1**

Defense attorney Abbe Lowell unexpectedly canceled testimony from his remaining witnesses after a lunch break in the trial Friday. He told the court his team is “down to that last decision,” signaling the weekend ruminating about putting Hunter Biden on the stand.

If Hunter Biden does take the stand, he could testify about his drug addiction, efforts to redeem himself and what happened at the gun store that afternoon. The defense hopes to evoke sympathy from some in the jury in a community where President Biden and his family are well regarded.

The cross-examination, however, would undoubtedly force Hunter Biden to talk about his drug addiction, his romantic relationships — including with his brother’s widow — and his freewheeling playboy lifestyle that has included documented instances of playing with handguns while using drugs.

President Biden’s brother James Biden stood outside the courtroom ready to testify after the lunch break Friday. James Biden has been close to his nephew and supported him through drug rehabilitation.

Upon returning from lunch, Mr. Lowell announced that James Biden would not be testifying and the defense wouldn’t call the other witnesses on its list.

Earlier in the trial, the defense team said it planned to have a forensics expert testify about a key piece of evidence prosecutors presented: cocaine residue discovered in a pouch where Hunter Biden’s gun was reportedly found.

Testimony by the first three defense witnesses did little to help Hunter Biden’s case.

The first defense witness, former gun store employee Jason Turner, repeatedly grew frustrated with Mr. Lowell as he pressed him to explain what happened during the 16 minutes Hunter Biden spent in the store.

At one point, Mr. Turner grumbled that Mr. Lowell did not understand “gun shop life.” He became increasingly sarcastic as his frustration with Mr. Lowell grew.

When asked what he was doing at a particular time, Mr. Turner jokingly responded, “I put on my ritual robes and sat in a marble room.”

Mr. Turner offered little evidence to refute prosecutors’ claims and complained that Hunter Biden’s legal team was “a mess” to deal with because they were not on time.

Gun store owner Ron Palimere was expected to testify about whether Hunter Biden filled out the entire gun form himself, but he struggled to remember the



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Naomi Biden (left) was the star defense witness Friday in her father’s trial, but her story on the stand did not seem to help his case. Defense attorney Abbe Lowell unexpectedly canceled testimony from his remaining witnesses after a lunch break.

first son’s visit.

The defense’s star witness was Hunter Biden’s daughter Naomi Biden.

She stressed that her father seemed well when she visited him at a rehabilitation facility in August 2018 and in New York a few weeks after the October 2018 gun purchase.

On cross-examination, she acknowledged that her time spent with Hunter Biden was limited, and she couldn’t say with certainty whether he was using drugs.

Prosecutors showed a series of text messages between Naomi Biden and Hunter Biden in which he wanted her to switch cars at 2:45 a.m. with no explanation.

They also read to the jurors a text message between Hunter Biden and his daughter on Oct. 18, six days after he purchased the gun, in which she appeared heartbroken that her father was not responding to text messages.

“I’m really sorry dad I can’t take this,” she wrote. She said she wanted to “hang out with him.” He responded that he was sorry he had been unreachable and it “wasn’t fair” to her.

Prosecutors suggested that Hunter Biden wasn’t available because he was using drugs.

• *Alex Swoyer reported from Washington.*



Hunter Biden and his family are beloved members of the Wilmington community, and the defense may be aiming for he nullification from a sympathetic jury.

MEDIA

# Online host’s eye roll during interview results in firing

By **KERRY PICKET**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Hill fired its progressive online show host after she appeared to roll her eyes while interviewing the sister of an Israeli woman kidnapped and held hostage by Hamas.

“It finally happened. The Hill has fired me,” Briahna Joy Gray wrote on X on Thursday, posted with an image of her notice of termination from the outlet.

She said, “There should be no doubt that @RisingHill has a clear pattern of suppressing speech — particularly when it’s critical of the state of Israel.”

The Washington Times reached out to The Hill’s parent company Nexstar for comment and did not immediately hear back.

Ms. Gray’s termination from The Hill’s YouTube program happened following a flood of online criticism she received over her treatment of Yarden Gonen, sister of Israeli hostage Romi Gonen, who was kidnapped by Hamas militants during the terrorist attack on southern Israel last Oct. 7.

Ms. Gray, who previously served as press secretary for Sen. Bernard Sanders, Vermont independent, apparently rolled her eyes and cut off Ms. Yarden when she told the host that she hoped Ms. Gray believed women who claim Hamas sexually assaulted them.

“I really hope that you, specifically, will believe women when they say that they got hurt,” she said.

Ms. Gray replied, “Alright, thanks for joining. Stick around.”

Although Ms. Gray attempted to steer the interview toward Israel’s response in Gaza, Ms. Yarden kept saying she did not want to discuss the politics in the region and preferred instead to highlight the hostage crisis and her sister’s plight.

“I am here to talk about my sister. Please help me spread her story. Help me make people understand what she is going through as a woman in 2024,” she said.

Ms. Gray said at one point during the interview, “I really do hope that Netanyahu agrees and Israel agrees to a cease-fire or deal that could bring all the hostages home, including your sister.” She added, “And I’m sure many people watching are praying for her safety.”

Ms. Gray received a wave of criticism from social media users online, who called her antisemitic for her behavior toward Ms. Yarden.

“The way Brianna Joy Gray sneers and rolls her eyes at Israeli pain paints a picture of dehumanization,” the Anti-Defamation League’s Carly Pildis said.

Rep. Ritchie Torres, New York Democrat said, “The family member of an Israeli hostage pleads with Briahna Joy Gray to believe Jewish women who have been abducted, tortured, and raped by Hamas.”

He said, “I have as much sympathy for Briahna Joy Gray as she has for the hostages. None.”

# IRS

From page **A1**

Ms. Yellen’s department did not respond to multiple inquiries by The Washington Times for this report.

The National Treasury Employees Union represents IRS workers. NTEU National President Doreen Greenwald said the union has had a telework agreement with the IRS for decades.

“Every time our contract comes up

for renewal, both parties reevaluate the program’s effectiveness and make adjustments accordingly,” she said.

She said the union has been working with the IRS to find ways to reduce space, such as sharing offices, which she said saves taxpayers money on real estate.

“Whether at the IRS or other federal agencies, the government should focus its resources on employees and how best to achieve the missions of federal agencies, not on simply filling

buildings and offices to meet some subjective percentage,” Ms. Greenwald said.

IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel testified to Congress last month that the agency’s walk-in centers are always fully staffed for in-person appointments and regularly open more locations.

“There is no remote work in any of our walk-in centers around the country,” he said.

Mr. Werfel has said the IRS is vying with major financial companies for

employees and telework is an important factor if the federal government wants to be competitive.

Ms. Yellen said the Treasury is working to consolidate offices where possible. She pointed to the decision earlier this year to move the Bureau of the Fiscal Service out of the Liberty Loan Federal Building and give it space in the U.S. Mint’s headquarters.

The Liberty Loan building opened in 1919 to temporarily house the bureaucratic expansion after World War I.



# CHINA

From page **A1**

anti-corruption campaign, which included investigations into millions of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) members.

The CRS report said 266 members of the CCP Central Committee have been ousted. Among them were Defense Minister Li Shangfu, also a former member of the Central Military Commission, and Foreign Minister Qin Gang.

It noted four types of corruption in China: access money, speed money, grand theft and petty theft.

Access money is the dominant form. One expert described it as capitalists' bribes to powerful party officials for access to privileges, such as cheap financing, land grants, monopoly rights, procurement contracts and tax breaks.

"From a businessperson's point of view, access money is less a tax than an investment," Yuen Yuen Ang, a Johns Hopkins University political economist, is quoted in the report as saying.

The report said Chinese business people frequently bribe "Party-state bosses" because the benefits offset the expenses.

The Chinese government has censors, and foreign affairs officials have



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese President Xi Jinping is estimated to be hiding \$707.2 million in wealth, according to a U.S. government report on corruption in Beijing.

vigorously sought to hide foreign reporting on corruption and CCP hidden wealth.

Foreign news outlets investigating leadership wealth and corruption have faced government retaliation, including the expulsion of reporters, the closure of foreign bureaus and failed visa renewals. Censors quickly block and remove

all online content related to the wealth and corruption of senior officials and their relatives. Online databases used to identify leaders' corruption have been restricted.

Chinese staff members of foreign news outlets, often key facilitators of foreign news gathering, have been forced to leave their jobs after corruption is reported, the report said.

A counterespionage regulation enacted last year redefined espionage to include accessing documents and data broadly defined as "state secrets."

The report identified two major news investigations into Mr. Xi's hidden wealth, one by Bloomberg News and another by The New York Times, both from 2012.

The news organizations traced money flows from corporate and regulatory documents.

Mr. Xi's estimated \$707.2 million in hidden wealth is said to have been spread among relatives, including his wife, Peng Liyuan, and daughter, Xi Mingze.

Most of the assets are owned by Mr. Xi's eldest sister, Qi Qiaobao, her husband, Deng Jiagui, and their daughter, Zhang Yannan.

The New York Times identified an estimated \$2.7 billion held by relatives of then-Premier Wen Jiabao, the CCP's third most senior leader.

Mr. Wen's wife, son and brother controlled those assets.

A third news investigation, in 2015, involved politically connected Chinese tycoon Wang Jianlin, who headed the real estate and entertainment empire Dalian Wanda Commercial Properties.

Bloomberg Editor-in-Chief Matthew Winkler killed the corruption story because of fears that publication would "wipe out everything we've tried to build there," NPR reported in 2020. The reporter who wrote the story, Michael Forsythe, quit and joined The New York Times.

Mr. Forsythe reported for The Times in 2015 that Ms. Qi and Mr. Deng were early investors in Dalian Wanda and paid \$28.9 million in 2009 for shares that had risen in value to \$240 million by 2015.

In 2019, The Wall Street Journal reported on a corruption case involving Ming Chai, an Australian citizen and Mr. Xi's cousin.

The report said Mr. Chai is Qi Ruixin, the younger brother of Mr. Xi's mother, Qi Xin.

Australian police investigated Mr. Chai during an investigation into organized crime, money laundering and Chinese influence operations.

After the article appeared, China expelled one of the two co-authors, Chun Han Wong.

In 2022, The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Mr. Chai had transferred about \$695,000 to a Chinese money laundering operation in Australia.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists produced a database from a leaked document that revealed Mr. Deng was a director and sole shareholder in two British Virgin Island companies.

The database disclosed that Feng Qiya, a member of the Henan Province delegation to China's National People's Congress, set up a British Virgin Islands company in 2016 to invest in U.S. stocks.

In 2019, news reports revealed that officials of Germany's Deutsche Bank promoted their business interests in China by giving expensive gifts to senior CCP leaders, hiring CCP leaders' relatives and investing in leaders' businesses.

Those linked to the corruption included Jiang Zemin, Chinese leader from 1989 to 2002, Wang Qishan, a member of the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee from 2012 to 2017 and Mr. Wen.

Deutsche Bank also hired adult children of Politburo standing committee members Li Zhanshu and Wang Yang.

The standing committee is the CCP's highest political body and is regarded as a collective dictatorship that oversees the government.

# IMMIGRATION

From page **A1**

room to operate.

"If you think about it, the Marine Corps is part of the Navy. ... But it's the Marine Corps. They know exactly what the Marine Corps does versus what the Navy does, traditionally. That's exactly the idea for HSI," Mr. Lechleitner said.

Mr. Lechleitner took over as acting director in July. He inherited what may be the toughest position in the federal government, given its central role in immigration politics and its duty as the deportation and immigration arrest agency.

ICE hasn't had a Senate-confirmed director in more than seven years. The last was Sarah Saldana, who left at the end of the Obama administration. Mr. Lechleitner has been the ninth acting director since then.

President Trump and President Biden have submitted nominations, but none has survived the toxic immigration politics on Capitol Hill.

In his interview with The Times, Mr. Lechleitner addressed one of those key battles: He wants Congress to fund 50,000 detention beds for his agency.

That is more than the 41,500 Congress allocated for fiscal 2024 and far more than the 34,000 Mr. Biden requested in his budget for fiscal 2025.

"I would love that to be a little higher, you know, so that we would have more bandwidth to handle the surges so we could detain more appropriately. It would take some of the stress off our facilities,"

Mr. Lechleitner said.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told Congress this year that he would support 50,000 detention beds in exchange for new authorities. Mr. Lechleitner attached no such conditions. "We could use 50,000," he said.

The latest House Republican spending proposal for fiscal 2025 includes money for 50,000 beds. The Democratic-led Senate has yet to produce its version.

Mr. Lechleitner said ICE can detain the big safety and security threats among the migrant population at the current level but needs extra beds to help deter more illegal immigrants.

ICE has facilities to hold only single adults for any length of time. Unaccompanied children are turned over to the Health and Human Services Department. That leaves families.

Tae Johnson, Mr. Lechleitner's predecessor as director, dismantled ICE's family detention facilities. That means families that aren't immediately ousted are caught and released.

Mr. Lechleitner said ICE could restore the family facilities, but it would take months and significant investment to get the properties up to standards.

ICE was created during a government reorganization after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, that also birthed the Homeland Security Department.

The agency combines a legal affairs division, which argues immigration cases in the immigration courts; the civil immigration-enforcement side, which is the Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations; and HSI.

Some HSI backers have suggested it should be split into its own agency, but that would take an act of Congress. The rebrand is the best Mr. Lechleitner and Mr. Mayorkas can do alone.

Jonathan Fahey, who served as acting director of ICE at the end of the Trump administration, said the Biden approach makes enforcement and removal worse by confirming the "stigma" around detention and deportation work.

"You're saying, 'Hey, we're separating because those other guys are the bad ones, and we're the good ones,'" he said. "That's really harmful to those people. You say to the public, 'OK, these are bad people.'"

"They can't outright abolish ICE, but you can delegitimize them in their mission, which has the effect of abolishing," said Mr. Fahey, now a partner at the law firm Holtzman Vogel.

He said the Biden administration could have gone on the offensive against sanctuaries and withheld funding. Instead, the administration has pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into sanctuary jurisdictions to help them resettle migrants caught and released on Mr. Biden's watch.

"The appropriate response should be: 'If you don't want to change, we're going to find ways to take money away from you,'" Mr. Fahey said.

Jon Feere, who served as chief of staff at ICE during the Trump years, said Homeland Security could find other ways to pressure communities.

"ICE is changing its own behavior to accommodate sanctuary jurisdictions when it should be doing the exact opposite: changing the behavior of

sanctuaries through strong policies," he said.

"Why is TSA happily managing air travel at the San Francisco International Airport, for example, when that city is actively undermining TSA's sister agencies?" he asked.

He said he doubted the rebrand would work. "Of course, the Biden administration is as anti-ICE and lawless as the sanctuaries, so there's really no hope without a change in administration," said Mr. Feere, now director of investigations at the Center for Immigration Studies. "In the meantime, these efforts just make ICE look weak and do nothing to unite DHS."

Sanctuary cities portray ICE as a terror to their communities, swooping in to pluck hardworking illegal immigrants out of church pews and hospital beds. ICE backers say the agency's deportation operations are much more focused on new illegal border-crossers and serious criminals within the illegal immigrant population.

Mr. Lechleitner acknowledged some consternation within ERO about his moves but doubted it was widespread.

"There's always going to be a perception of that. I don't think that that's the rank-and-file," he told The Times. "Some of this is just identity politics from HSI. They want the identity."

He said the rebranding will pay dividends if communities are willing to work with HSI.

"In a perfect world, my perfect world, it's just complete open cooperation, law enforcement to law enforcement. That's what it should be. I understand the perfect is not what's going to happen, at least right now. So I'll work with anyone," he said.

# NORTH KOREA

From page **A1**

to ignore in the last few years is how China has developed into a society that has used digital surveillance to monitor and control its citizens," Martyn Williams, a senior fellow with the Stimson Center's North Korea-focused media 38 North, told Seoul-based reporters. "So, it is natural to assume that North Korea would adopt the digital technologies that China is using."

Mr. Williams' team uses open-source intelligence, state media, trade show products, North Korean academic research, defector interviews and Chinese social media to gauge the state of Pyongyang's digital repression. The North's cellular network has a new 4G service detectable even in parts of northern South Korea. All indications are that cellular service is widely used.

"There is no reason to think they have a low cellphone penetration rate," Mr. Williams said. "We have identified over 100 base stations — just the ones we have found via satellite imagery — and assumed [3-mile] coverage," though mountainous areas of the country remain without service.

Despite its isolation and poverty, "North Korea has a really high level of aptitude when it comes to software engineering, but it does not have a large hardware industry," Mr. Williams said. "All its smartphones come from Chinese companies, but the security software on them is all developed domestically."

Devices exported to North Korea are manufactured by nonbrand Chinese companies rather than by major exporters who could face global sanctions. Ten North Korean companies sell imported phones to the public.

## Expanding opportunities

Opportunities for the regime to monitor the population for suspect activities or opinions are expanding.

Pyongyang has introduced digital ID cards, and QR payment codes have been synced with digital markets. Smartphones have built-in screen-capture software, allowing authorities to scrutinize users' viewing habits. Although phones of non-North Koreans are locked, engineers have failed to hack phones taken outside the country with USB sticks, Mr. Williams said.

Biometric techniques — fingerprint and facial recognition — date back to the 1990s. A network of Chinese-made closed-circuit TV cameras, backed by local algorithms, is being rolled out from farms to factories nationwide.

"North Korea has been devoting a lot of resources to facial recognition technology," Mr. Williams said. "It can tell the state who is in a particular place at a particular time."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even North Korean border guards along the Demilitarized Zone are being monitored in Kim Jong-un's police state. Motivated by fear, citizens likely do not need a Chinese-style digital surveillance system.

On streets and highways, cameras monitor traffic. On the border with China, closed-circuit TV can watch border guards.

"This might go some way to explain why the northern border is so tightly closed," Mr. Williams said. "It is not just additional security; security services themselves are being monitored ... and have to watch what they are doing."

Cameras positioned in classrooms over the past four years monitor teachers and students, he said.

Six cameras on one state farm scrutinize work areas and monuments celebrating the regime's achievements. "It's interesting that they seem to keep those under surveillance," Mr. Williams said.

"Increased surveillance in North Korea is not necessarily against individual citizens but against all levels of society to make sure they are doing the jobs they are meant to be doing," he said.

Internet protocol networks that deliver television to homes offer other snooping opportunities. The state IPTV system carries four TV channels to Pyongyang's rural areas, but only one is available.

"Netflix tracks what you watch, but in the North Korean context, you can find out what people do not watch," Mr. Williams said. "That starts to become scary — if you decided to change channels when Kim's speech came on."

Still, North Korea's digital surveillance systems are "nowhere near" China's capabilities because of a lack of funds to upgrade the systems, Mr. Williams said.

North Korea "wants to emulate the Chinese police state but will have trouble doing it because it lacks the foreign currency needed to purchase advanced systems," said Geoffrey Cain, who heads

the Tech Integrity Project, a nongovernmental organization. "Most of the [state's] technological capabilities rest with its skilled hackers, and that's it."

Another issue is power supply. "North Korea does not consistently have 24-hour electricity all over the country," Mr. Williams said. "Digital surveillance and QR codes are useless if you don't have electricity."

Puny computing power is another limiting factor. Pyongyang lacks "a sophisticated data center and good networking back to the data center," Mr. Williams said. Most of North Korea runs technically limited 3G services, which are "really slow these days."

Still, upgrades are underway. Surveillance cameras may be able to run off solar panels, and the new 4G service enables nationwide networking of television footage to a national data center.

## A three-tiered surveillance state

Even without the upgrades, the three-tiered surveillance system is formidable, said Kim Kwang-jin, a North Korean defector and senior analyst at Seoul's Institute for National Security Strategy. Two key tiers are the Ministry for Protection of

State Security, a domestic spy agency, and the Ministry of People's Security. Both operate with little oversight or restraint from courts, media or human rights groups.

Security professionals are expected "to hear a pin dropping," Mr. Kim said.

The third tier is the most intrusive. The Immin Ban — "People's Class Unit" or "Neighborhood Unit" — groups 10 to 20 nearby households together and tasks them to spy on one another for anti-regime activity. All units are required to report to higher authorities. All are motivated by fear.

"It is not like they are influenced by rules. They are more influenced by punishment if they don't report properly," Mr. Kim said. "If a stranger appears, it's a citizen's responsibility to report it."

Mr. Kim calls it "a perfect totalitarian regime." It has proved to be incredibly effective over time. The only three serious challenges to the Kim family's 76 years of rule originated from within the military, not the general population.

Pyongyang may want Beijing-style digital surveillance, but it likely does not need it.

"China is a beacon of freedom compared to North Korea," Mr. Williams said.

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# Nation

CULTURE

## Biden-Trump faceoff widens American differences in culture wars

By SEAN SALAI  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Most Biden and Trump voters disagree sharply about abortion, race, gender, crime and religious issues, according to the latest Pew Research Center's "culture war" poll.

But one thing both groups agree on is guaranteed access to birth control.

Among registered voters, 93% of President Biden's supporters and 66% of former President Donald Trump's voters said "the wide availability" of birth control pills, condoms and other contraceptive methods is "good for society."

The nonprofit research center reported that 38% of Trump voters said

## Both sides agree on guaranteed access to birth control

abortion should be legal "in all or most cases," compared with 88% of Biden supporters. And while a growing majority of voters believe the sex assigned at birth determines someone's gender, including 90% of Trump supporters, only 39% of Biden supporters agreed.

"Across more than 30 measures, some of the widest differences are on issues that have divided Americans for decades: the role of guns in society, as well as race and the legacy of slavery," Pew noted.

This disconnect extended to family life, where 59% of Trump backers and just 19% of Biden voters said focusing on

marriage and family makes society better.

Other key findings included:

- The survey found 63% of Trump voters support a national deportation of all illegal immigrants, compared with 11% of Biden supporters.
- Only 27% of registered voters supporting Trump agreed that "the legacy of slavery affects the position of Black people in America today" either a great deal or a fair amount. Among Biden supporters, 79% said slavery's legacy "still affects the position of Black people."
- More than six in 10 voters said the criminal justice system is generally "not

tough enough on criminals," including 81% of Trump supporters and 40% of Biden voters.

- A large majority of respondents, 71%, said religion should be separate from government policies. That included 86% of Biden supporters and 56% of Trump voters.

On gun control, the survey found Trump and Biden supporters lining up on opposite sides of three questions.

While 80% of Biden voters said it is more important to control gun ownership, 85% of Trump supporters said it's a bigger priority to "protect the right of

Americans to own guns."

And 75% of Biden supporters said gun ownership does more to "reduce safety by giving too many people access to firearms and increasing misuse." By comparison, 86% of Trump voters said it does more to "increase safety by allowing law-abiding citizens to protect themselves."

Finally, 83% of Biden backers said more guns in the U.S. would be "bad," compared to just 21% of Trump voters who agreed.

"By overwhelming margins, Joe Biden's supporters prioritize gun control over gun rights and say gun ownership does more to reduce than increase safety," Pew said.



LAS VEGAS SUN VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Las Vegas fell short of setting any heat wave records this weekend after a record-high 110 degrees on Friday. A National Weather Service meteorologist says it's not unusual for parts of the Southwest to heat up quickly, especially in the second half of June.

WEATHER

## Heat wave departure provides little relief as Southwest awaits monsoons

By SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** | The weeklong heat wave that baked most of the Southwest in temperatures well into triple digits is on its last legs, but forecasters are still urging people to be cautious as there will be little relief from the warm weather until monsoon thunderstorms begin to kick in, likely in July.

A slight easing of temperatures was expected through the weekend, with Phoenix and Las Vegas falling short of besting any new records. Still, an excessive heat warning continues through Saturday in Las Vegas, where it's never been hotter this time of year. It was a record-high 110 degrees Fahrenheit in Las Vegas on Friday, 113 F in Phoenix and 100 F in Albuquerque.

Even in Florida, forecasters with the National Weather Service on Saturday warned that heat indices would be well into the triple digits for Miami and other areas. That measurement reflects what the temperature feels like to the human body when relative humidity

is combined with the air temperature.

Record high temperatures also were expected through the weekend for central Florida, where many communities just wrapped up their warmest May on record as temperatures for the month were between 3 and 4 degrees above normal.

Forecasters also issued heat advisories in far West Texas and along the U.S.-Mexico border, but they noted that the highs would be a bit cooler than the past couple days.

The heat arrived weeks earlier than usual even in places at higher elevations — areas typically a dozen degrees cooler. That includes Reno, Nevada, where the normal high of 81 F for this time of year soared to a record 98 F on Thursday and hit 98 F again Friday — but was short of the daily record 100 F.

John Adair, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Las Vegas, said it's not unusual for parts of the Southwest to heat up pretty quickly, especially in the second half of June.

"So this is a hot time of year before we start to get some moisture and cloud cover from the monsoon thunderstorms

that come around," Mr. Adair said. "Even for next weekend, we're forecast to hover around 105, 106, which is just slightly above normal at that point."

In the Southwest, monsoon thunderstorms typically ramp up during the first week in July.

There have been no reports of any heat-related deaths or serious injuries in the region, but a 68-year-old man was hospitalized in stable condition in Phoenix on Friday after he was overcome with heat exhaustion while hiking on a mountain trail and rescued by fire crews.

In Nevada, the Clark County Fire Department reported Friday that it logged 20 calls classified as heat exposure over a three-day period, with 12 of those resulting in trips to local hospitals. Eight of the calls came on Friday.

Cooling centers, including community centers and libraries, remained open Saturday for people looking for relief from the heat, the fire department said.

With heat records already being broken in May and June, this year could end up being more deadly than last when it comes to heat-related deaths.

FLORIDA

## Officials warn swimmers of shark dangers along state's Gulf Coast beaches

### Three injured in two separate attacks

By JEFF MARTIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Authorities were using boats to patrol the ocean and warning swimmers about sharks this weekend along Florida's Gulf Coast, where a woman and two teenage girls were hurt in two separate shark attacks on Friday.

The attacks off beaches in the Florida Panhandle led authorities to temporarily close several beaches to swimmers on Friday. Beaches were reopened Saturday, with flags warning of high hazards.

"All I can say is that these incidents are very rare," said Demian Chapman, a scientist and director of the Center for Shark Research at the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota, Florida.

"It's even more rare to have two events in one day involving three people," Mr. Chapman told The Associated Press on Saturday. "That's astronomically low odds of that happening."

In Walton County, the sheriff's office, the fire department and the state's wildlife agency were working together to patrol the water with boats and the shore with vehicles, the South Walton Fire District said in an update Saturday. Both of Friday's attacks happened in Walton County.

"Please swim carefully today, respect the Gulf, stay hydrated, and look out for your loved ones," the fire department said on social media.

Red and purple flags were being used Saturday to warn swimmers of the dangers.

"Purple Flags indicate the presence of dangerous marine life and single red flags indicate high hazard conditions," the Bay County Sheriff's Office posted Saturday on social media.

Small fish are traveling in schools

near the shore this time of year, which might have been a contributing factor in the attacks, the Bay County Sheriff's Office said.

The first attack happened Friday afternoon when a woman was bitten by a shark near WaterSound Beach, the Walton County Sheriff's Office said. She had critical injuries on her midsection and arm, and part of her arm had to be amputated, South Walton Fire Chief Ryan Crawford said. She was flown to a trauma center.

Less than two hours later, firefighters responded to another beach about 4 miles east of the first attack "following multiple reports of a teenager injured by a shark," the sheriff's office said.

Two teenage girls were in waist-deep water with a group of friends when they were attacked, the South Walton Fire District said.

"When lifeguards and deputies arrived on scene, they found one of the females had significant injuries to the upper leg and one hand," fire officials said in an update. She was flown to a trauma center. The other teen had what officials described as minor injuries on one of her feet.

The two teenagers are from Mountain Brook, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham, Mountain Brook City Manager Sam Gaston told the news site Al.com.

The time of the attacks — in the middle of the afternoon — was also an anomaly, Walton County Sheriff Michael Adkinson said. Sheriff's officials often warn people to be aware of sharks early in the morning and at dusk, their typical feeding times, he noted.

Also Friday, in Hawaii, a woman was seriously injured in an apparent shark attack in the waters off the island of Oahu, officials said.

## Muslim mob's Quran slaughter must horrify us all to action

Americans enjoy the boundless benefits of democracy and freedom, but millions around the world aren't so lucky, finding themselves trapped in dystopian nightmares devoid of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Many of the issues debated, discussed and haggled over in the U.S. expose the lived privilege with which so many of us live.

From excitement over the latest Starbucks latte to the hottest reality TV or sports team, our cares and concerns are galaxies away from the perils that exist in countries such as Pakistan, where persecution runs rampant and the law is routinely bent and contorted into oblivion.

Simply living an unimpeded day in safety and peace is a luxury for Christians there.

The overarching depths of moral depravity were recently on full display after Nazeer Masih Gill, a 74-year-old Pakistani man, died after a vicious attack May 25 at the hands of an apparently out-of-control Muslim mob, Christian Daily International-Morning Star News reported.

His offense? Gill, a Christian, was accused of blasphemy for allegedly burning the pages of a Quran, a charge

some watchdogs say was concocted for the sole purpose of targeting him.

Despite the supposedly faux charges, the mob of angry Muslims was so ginned up after a mosque announcement proclaiming Gill's guilt that they bombarded him with bricks and stones and beat him with sticks before kicking him repeatedly.

In the end, Gill was left with skull fractures, blood clots and life-threatening injuries. The vulturous behavior and rabid violence were even perpetuated against the ambulance crew that came to rescue him, further complicating any rescue plans.

Sadly, he couldn't be saved.

"Doctors ... conducted two surgeries to save his life, but despite the removal of bone fragments from his brain, his condition remained precarious, and he couldn't survive," Gill's son, Sultan Gill, told Christian Daily International-Morning Star News.

The younger Mr. Gill described a terrifying situation the day of the assault in which a group of 20 to 30 attackers swelled into a crowd of hundreds, with police unable to stop the horror.

In addition to the attack, the entire family ended up losing their belongings to looters, their home was



partially torched, and they are living in a safe house for fear of further violence.

It's unfathomable that human beings face this sort of evil in the modern era, yet most experts report massive increases in persecution across the globe — and the problem shows no signs of slowing down. Pakistan is more the rule than the exception these days, though it is undoubtedly one of the biggest offenders globally for this kind of violence.

The South Asian nation is the seventh-worst country for Christian persecution, according to watchdog Open Doors' annual World Watch List.

It's not uncommon for Pakistani Muslims to claim Christians have blasphemed or destroyed a Quran, leading to terrifying ordeals like what Gill experienced.

In August, a massive attack on Christian homes and churches unfolded in the city of Jaranwala after

allegations spread that someone had harmed pages in the Quran. According to Open Doors, nearly 100 homes and more than 20 churches were affected.

"Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are often used to target minority groups, but Christians are disproportionately affected," the outlet said. "Indeed, roughly a quarter of all blasphemy accusations target Christians, who only make up 1.8% of the population."

Over the past year, the stories to emerge from Pakistan further encapsulate the most demoniacal evil imaginable.

A young woman named Sunita was doused in acid for refusing to enter into a relationship with a man and convert to Islam. With severe burns all over the then-19-year-old's body, her family pondered whether her life would ever again be normal.

In a separate incident, a young man was given the death penalty for blasphemy, with claims he was wielding profane images of Muhammad — charges his family denied.

Most recently, a Catholic family was attacked and saw their land stolen. They are reportedly receiving little help from Pakistani authorities and have lost their source of income,

leaving them destitute.

"We have lost everything, our livelihood, our money and most of all the hope of getting justice," Ashraf Yousaf, one of the affected family members, said of the horrific situation.

These dangerous attacks compound the "institutionalized discrimination" groups like Open Doors report seeing in Pakistan, with Christians being forced into lower-level jobs while experiencing persistent targeting by majority stakeholders.

One of the most dangerous situations for Gill and others like him are false blasphemy charges, as this form of unfair targeting can clearly cost someone his or her property — or life.

While it's fine to be concerned with our own affairs here in America, the persecution situation globally must also remain top of mind. These innocent humans deserve not only our prayers, but also our calls for advocacy.

We must urge our government to do whatever we can to protect them so that they, too, can taste the immeasurable freedom we enjoy.

- Billy Hallowell is a digital TV host and interviewer for Faithwire and CBN News and the co-host of CBN's "Quick Start Podcast." He is the author of four books.



EDUCATION

Christian group teaches public school students during classroom hours

By Isabella Volmert  
Associated Press

**INDIANAPOLIS** | An Ohio nonprofit that provides off-site Bible instruction to public school students during classroom hours says it will triple its programs in Indiana this fall after new legislation forced school districts to comply.

To participating families, nondenominational LifeWise Academy programs supplement religious instruction. But critics in Indiana worry the programs spend public school resources on religion, proselytize to students of other faiths and remove children from class in a state already struggling with literacy.

LifeWise founder and CEO Joel Penton told The Associated Press that many parents want religious instruction to be part of their children's education.

"Values of faith and the Bible are absolutely central to many families," Mr. Penton said. "And so they want to demonstrate to their children that it is central to their lives."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Values of faith and the Bible are absolutely central to many families," said Joel Penton, founder of LifeWise Academy, which teaches Bible classes for public school students. "... So they want to demonstrate to their children that is central in their lives."

Public schools cannot promote any religion under the First Amendment, but a 1952 Supreme Court ruling centered on New York schools cleared the way for programs like LifeWise. Individual places of worship often work with

schools to host programs off campus, and they are not regulated in some states.

LifeWise officials addressed the Oklahoma and Ohio legislatures in support of laws that would require schools to cooperate with off-site religious programs, Mr. Penton said, and Oklahoma's Republican governor signed one such bill into law Wednesday.

Similar bills have been introduced in Ohio, Nebraska, Georgia and Mississippi this year, according to an AP analysis of Plural, a legislative tracking database.

LifeWise programs will be available at over 520 locations in 23 states next school year, up from 331 in 13 states this year, and about 31,000 students attend LifeWise programs in the U.S., Mr. Penton said.

Mr. Penton wants LifeWise to be available to "50 million public school students nationwide," he said.

In Indiana, Republican state Rep. Kendell Culp introduced the legislation requiring principals to allow students to attend release-time religious education

after a rural school stopped cooperating with LifeWise. The bill was signed into law in March and subsequently 45 Indiana schools will work with the company this fall, triple the number from last year.

LifeWise Academy, based in Hilliard, Ohio, is funded by donors, including more than \$13 million in contributions from July 2022 to June 2023, according to its latest federal report.

The curriculum was developed in conjunction with the Gospel Project, a Bible study plan produced by an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention, Mr. Penton said.

Instructors are provided with guidance on how to respond to difficult questions, including about the afterlife and sex. LifeWise opposes same-sex marriage, as well as transgender and gender-fluid identities.

"Our guide helps classroom educators address these questions with compassion, humility and respect," Mr. Penton said in a statement.

CALIFORNIA

**Shooting suspect dies in jail cell**

A suspect who was being held in a jail on charges connected to a 2022 shooting in Sacramento died Saturday in his cell, police and his attorney said.

The 29-year-old male inmate died while in custody at the Sacramento County Main Jail around 2:15 a.m., the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office said.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that public defender Norman Dawson identified the man as Smiley Martin, his client who was awaiting trial on three felony charges stemming from an April 3, 2022, shooting in Sacramento that killed six people and wounded 12 others.

Jail deputies were conducting a cell check and found an unresponsive inmate. The deputies and fire department personnel attempted life-saving procedures, but he was pronounced dead.

The Sacramento County Coroner's Office will determine the cause of death.

— Associated Press

SOUTH DAKOTA

**Shooting leaves three dead, two wounded**

**SIOUX FALLS** | A shooting in a neighborhood left three people dead and two others injured early Saturday, police said.

Police said they have a suspect in custody. They said there does not appear to be any further danger to the community. The investigation is ongoing.

Police said they found the victims around 2:45 a.m. while responding to a call about a disturbance, the Argus Leader reported.

— Associated Press

LOUISIANA

**Airline lawyers spared religious liberty training**

**NEW ORLEANS** | An appeals court on Friday blocked a federal judge's order that three attorneys for Southwest Airlines get religious liberty training from a conservative advocacy group, saying the judge likely exceeded his authority.

Three judges with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans

**BRIEFLY**  
THE NATION

put the training order on hold while appeals are pursued.

The order is an outgrowth of a case in which a Southwest flight attendant, Charlene Carter, sued the airline and her union after she was fired for sending graphic anti-abortion material and disparaging messages to a union leader and fellow employee.

Ms. Carter won an \$800,000 court award, also the subject of an appeal, after her attorneys argued that she was terminated for her religious beliefs.

The religious-training requirement was part of a contempt order against the airline issued by U.S. District Judge Brantley Starr. After Ms. Carter won a jury verdict, Judge Starr ordered the airline to tell flight attendants that under federal law, it "may not discriminate against Southwest flight attendants for their religious practices and beliefs."

Instead, the Dallas-based airline told employees that it "does not discriminate," and told flight attendants to follow the airline policy it cited in firing Ms. Carter.

In August, Judge Starr found Southwest in contempt for how it explained the case to flight attendants.

— Associated Press

WYOMING

**Large chunk of Teton Pass road collapses**

**JACKSON** | A large chunk of a twisting mountain pass road collapsed Saturday, leaving a gaping chasm in the highway and severing a well-traveled commuter link between small towns in eastern Idaho and the tourist destination of Jackson, authorities said.

Aerial photos and drone video of the collapse show the Teton Pass road riven with deep cracks, and a big section of the pavement disappeared altogether. Part of the guardrail dangled into the void, and orange traffic drums marked off the danger area. The road was closed at the time of the collapse.

The section that failed first drew attention Thursday when a crack and

drop in the road contributed to the crash of a motorcycle.

— Associated Press

WISCONSIN

**Shooting at rooftop party leaves at least 10 injured**

**MADISON** | An early morning shooting at a rooftop party in Wisconsin left at least 10 people injured, including teenagers, police said Sunday.

Nine people were injured by gunfire and another was injured by broken glass at the party at a high-rise apartment in downtown Madison.

All of the injured were hospitalized. None had injuries considered to be life-threatening.

The victims ranged in age from 14 to 23.

Police were called to the apartment complex around 12:45 a.m.

The shooting happened near the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, but university officials said no students were known to be among those involved.

No one was in custody Sunday in connection with the shooting.

— Associated Press

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# World

SECURITY

## Top AI labs have minimal defense against espionage

By RYAN LOVELACE  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Some of the nation’s top artificial intelligence labs have pitiful security measures in place to protect them from espionage, leaving potentially dangerous AI models exposed to thieves and spies, according to U.S. government-backed researchers.

The firm Gladstone AI, which advises federal agencies on AI issues, recently met with insiders from OpenAI, Google DeepMind, Anthropic and other leading AI outfits as part of a sweeping probe into security measures across the sector.

While refusing to attribute various problems to specific labs in order to protect the investigators’ sources, the Gladstone AI team told The Washington Times that it found various assessments of security issues were “totally untethered to reality” about national security.

“In general, what you will find is security practices that I think it’s fair to say security professionals would be really concerned about if they saw them,” Jeremie Harris, Gladstone AI CEO, said. “For example, just to give one, folks taking their laptops out down the street to the nearest Starbucks and just hacking away on them.”

Mr. Harris and his brother, Edouard Harris, Gladstone AI’s tech chief, conducted the probe into AI safety in coordination with the State Department. Investigators found minimal security

## Researchers’ probe finds cavalier attitudes, lack of theft understanding

measures and cavalier attitudes about safety among AI professionals.

While remote work at Starbucks is not outlandish in the American tech sector’s startup culture, it is a much bigger problem for AI researchers playing with powerful models outside of a secure environment.

Gladstone AI learned of individuals running experiments with AI models on laptops without proper supervision, which could fuel fears that experimenters may eventually lose the ability to restrain the AI from doing damage.

Security professionals also do not seem to fully understand the threat to AI labs posed by foreign espionage, some say.

Edouard Harris said one insider relayed a conversation between an AI worker and a security official in a lab that demonstrated the lack of knowledge about tech theft from China.

The security official told the AI worker that the lab had no concern about Chinese theft of the lab’s work because the lab had not seen any models emerge in China that resembled their work, according to Edouard Harris.

The Gladstone AI team was perplexed that leading labs expected to see suspected China-sponsored thieves to

publicly flaunt what they stole.

“The idea is, ‘We haven’t seen any public leaderboard results come out of China that are [our] level quality, so therefore they must not have stolen,’” Jeremie Harris said.

The State Department told The Washington Times its efforts to understand AI research and development are ongoing, it is working to mitigate harm, and Gladstone AI’s assessment does not explicitly represent the views of the U.S. government.

The department said in a statement that Gladstone AI’s work “is just one of many sources we and the inter-agency may reference as we work to assess the risks associated with artificial intelligence.”

“Recognizing there are differing views in the AI community on the nature and urgency of risk posed by AI, the department will continue to work within the interagency to address concerns associated with AI safety and security,” the State Department said.

Some labs are not blind to safety and security issues in their work.

For example, Google DeepMind told House lawmakers last year that the company was rethinking how to publish and share its work because of concerns about

how China would use the information.

The Big Tech company’s AI research team appeared more focused on research security than their colleagues in academia, The Times learned from a source close to the lawmakers meeting with Google DeepMind in their U.K. headquarters last year.

Asked about Gladstone AI’s findings, Google DeepMind said it takes security seriously.

“Our mission is to develop AI responsibly to benefit humanity — and safety has always been a core element of our work,” the company said in a statement late last week. “We will continue to follow our AI principles and share our research best practices with others in the industry, as we advance our frontier AI models.”

OpenAI and Anthropic did not respond to requests for comment.

The concern extends beyond major AI labs. Edouard Harris said the security is “far lower” at smaller AI labs that are not hyperscalers, such as Google and Microsoft.

“You will often hear folks say things like, ‘Oh, we don’t want to slow down AI progress or to take the time to do safety and security because then the Chinese will catch up.’ That’s an illusion,” Edouard Harris said. “The reality is we have no margin, we have no leadership. The stuff that we are developing here in the United States is just being stolen on a routine basis.”

### BRIEFLY THE WORLD

IRAN

#### Tehran OKs presidential candidates, blocks one

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES |

Iran’s Guardian Council on Sunday approved the country’s hard-line parliament speaker and five others to run in the country’s June 28 presidential election following a helicopter crash that killed President Ebrahim Raisi and seven others.

The council again barred former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a firebrand populist known for the crackdown that followed his disputed 2009 reelection, from running.

The council’s decision represents the starting gun for a shortened, two-week campaign to replace Mr. Raisi, a hard-line protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei once floated as a possible successor for the 85-year-old cleric.

The selection of candidates approved by the Guardian Council, a panel of clerics and jurists ultimately overseen by Ayatollah Khamenei, suggests Iran’s Shiite theocracy hopes to ease the election through after recent votes saw record-low turnout and as tensions remain high over the country’s rapidly advancing nuclear program, as well as the Israel-Hamas war.

— Associated Press

INDIA

#### Modi sworn in for third term as prime minister

NEW DELHI |

Narendra Modi was sworn in Sunday for a rare third consecutive term as India’s prime minister, relying on his coalition partners after his party failed to win a parliamentary majority in a surprise outcome.

Mr. Modi and his Cabinet ministers took the oath of office, administered by President Droupadi Murmu, at India’s presidential palace Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

The 73-year-old popular but polarizing leader is only the second Indian prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to retain power for a third five-year term.

His Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which won by landslides in 2014 and 2019, failed to secure the majority to govern on its own. However, Mr. Modi’s National Democratic Alliance coalition won enough seats to form a government, with him at the helm.

— Associated Press

PAKISTAN

#### Roadside bomb kills seven soldiers in convoy

PESHAWAR |

A roadside bomb exploded Sunday near a security convoy in northwestern Pakistan, killing seven soldiers, including an army captain, the military said.

The latest attack happened in Lakki Marwat, a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, the military said.

No one claimed responsibility, but suspicion is likely to fall on the Pakistani Taliban, who have a strong presence in the region. The Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, is a separate group that has been emboldened since the Afghan Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in 2021.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant attacks in recent years, predominantly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In January 2023 militants killed at least 101 people, mostly police officers, when a suicide bomber disguised attacked a mosque in Peshawar.

— Associated Press

GREECE

#### Body of missing British TV presenter found

ATHENS |

The body of missing British TV presenter Michael Mosley was found on a Greek island Sunday morning after a days-long search, his family said.

A police spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of an ongoing investigation, said a body was found on a rocky coast by a private boat and that formal identification was pending.

Mr. Mosley’s wife said her husband took the wrong route on a hike and collapsed in a place where his body couldn’t easily be seen. He went missing Wednesday afternoon on the island of Symi.

— Associated Press

EUROPE

## Far-right gains in EU elections deal defeat to Macron

### Scandal-plagued German party rallies to sweep past Scholz’s Social Democrats

By RAF CASERT, LORNE COOK,  
AND SAMUEL PETREQUIN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BRUSSELS** | Far-right parties rattled the traditional powers in the European Union and made major gains in parliamentary elections Sunday, dealing an especially humiliating defeat to French President Emmanuel Macron.

On a night where the 27-member bloc palpably shifted to the right, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni more than doubled her seats in the EU parliament. And even though the far-right Alternative for Germany party (AfD in German) was hounded by scandal involving candidates, it still rallied enough seats to sweep past the slumping Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Sensing a threat from the right, the Christian Democrats of EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had already shifted on migration and climate ahead of the elections — and were rewarded by remaining by far the biggest group in the 720-seat European Parliament and de facto brokers of the ever expanding powers of the legislature.

Undoubtedly however, the star on a stunning electoral night was the National Rally party of Marine Le Pen, which dominated the French polls to such an extent that Mr. Macron immediately

dissolved the national parliament and called for new elections.

It was a massive political risk since his party could suffer more losses, hobbling the rest of his presidential term, which ends in 2027.

Ms. Le Pen was delighted to accept the challenge.

“We’re ready to turn the country around, ready to defend the interests of the French, ready to put an end to mass immigration,” she said, echoing the rallying cry of many right-wing leaders in other countries who were celebrating substantial wins.

Her National Rally won over 30% or about twice as much as Mr. Macron’s pro-European centrist Renew party that is projected to reach less than 15%.

“I’ve heard your message, your concerns, and I won’t leave them unanswered,” Mr. Macron said, adding that calling a snap election only underscored his democratic credentials.

In Germany, the most populous nation in the 27-member bloc, projections indicated that the AfD overcame a string of scandals involving its top candidate to rise to 16.5%, up from 11% in 2019. In comparison, the combined result for the three parties in the German governing coalition barely topped 30%.

Mr. Scholz suffered such an ignominious fate that his long-established Social



ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPD party supporters react to a forecast for the European Union elections Sunday in Berlin. Far-right parties rattled traditional powers in the European Union and made major gains in parliamentary elections as the 27-member bloc shifted to the right.

Democratic party fell behind the AfD, which surged into second place.

“After all the prophecies of doom, after the barrage of the last few weeks, we are the second strongest force,” a jubilant AfD leader Alice Weidel said.

The four-day polls in the 27 EU countries were the world’s second-biggest exercise in democracy, behind India’s recent election.

Overall across the EU, two mainstream and pro-European groups, the Christian Democrats and the Socialists, remained the dominant forces. The gains of the far right came at the expense of the Greens, who were expected to lose about

20 seats and fall back to sixth position in the legislature.

For decades, the European Union, which has its roots in the defeat of Nazi Germany and fascist Italy, confined the hard right to the political fringes. With its strong showing in these elections, the right could now become a major player in policies ranging from migration to security and climate.

To stop that, Ms. von der Leyen offered to build a coalition with the Social Democrats and the pro-business Liberals. Since the Christian Democrats won seats while the two others lost, she can do so from a position of strength.

UKRAINE

## Ukraine says it struck top fighter plane deep inside Russia

By SUSIE BLANN AND JOANNA KOZLOWSKA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**KYIV, UKRAINE** | Ukraine on Sunday said its forces hit an ultramodern Russian warplane stationed on an air base nearly 370 miles from the front lines.

The strike came shortly after its Western allies allowed Kyiv to use their weapons for limited strikes inside Russia. But it wasn’t immediately clear what hit the aircraft allegedly housing the twin-engine Su-57 stealth jet, lauded as Moscow’s most advanced fighter plane. Its distance from Ukraine suggests it was most likely hit by drones.

Kyiv’s main military intelligence service shared satellite photos it said showed the aftermath of the attack. If confirmed, it would mark Ukraine’s first known successful strike on a Su-57.

In one photo, black soot marks and small craters can be seen dotting a concrete strip around the parked aircraft. According to the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine’s Ministry of Defense, the strike took place on Saturday at the Akhtubinsk base in southern

Russia, some 366 miles from the front line.

The Ukrainian agency said that the plane, which is capable of carrying stealth missiles across hundreds of miles, was among “a countable few” of its type in Moscow’s arsenal. According to reports by Russian agencies, Moscow’s air force obtained “more than 10” new Su-57s last year, and has placed an order for a total of 76 to be delivered by 2028.

Ilya Yevlash, a spokesman for Ukraine’s air force, told Ukrainian media in April that Moscow was trying to keep its Su-57 fleet “at a safe distance” from Ukrainian firepower.

The strike comes after the United States and Germany recently authorized Ukraine to hit some targets on Russian soil with the long-range weapons they are supplying to Kyiv.

Ukraine has already used U.S. weapons to strike inside Russia under newly approved guidance from President Biden that allows American arms to be used for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city.

But the airstrip’s distance from Ukraine, as well as unofficial comments from Russia, point to the likely use of Ukrainian-made drones. Since Moscow’s full-scale invasion more than two years ago, Kyiv has ramped up domestic drone production and used the munitions to strike deep inside Russia. In January, drones hit a gas terminal near St. Petersburg that lies more than 620 miles north of the border.

A popular pro-Kremlin Telegram channel, thought to be run by a retired Russian army pilot, claimed that three Ukrainian drones struck the Akhtubinsk airstrip on Saturday and that flying shrapnel damaged the jet.

“It is now being determined whether it can be restored or not. If not, it would be the first combat loss of a Su-57 in history,” the Fighterbomber channel reported.

A military correspondent for Russia’s state-run RIA news agency, Aleksandr Kharchenko, in a Telegram post Sunday denounced Moscow’s failure to build hangars to protect its aircraft. But the post stopped short of directly

acknowledging the strike.

Russia’s so-called “military bloggers” like Fighterbomber are often seen as sources of information on military losses in the absence of an official Kremlin comment. Russia’s Defense Ministry or senior political figures did not comment Sunday.

The ministry on Saturday claimed its forces downed three Ukrainian drones in the Astrakhan region, home to the Akhtubinsk airstrip. Igor Babushkin, the governor of Astrakhan, that same day reported that Ukraine attempted to strike an unspecified facility there, but claimed the attack was unsuccessful.

Russia’s Su-57 fleet has been largely absent from the skies over Ukraine, and has instead been used to fire long-range missiles across the border. The U.K. Ministry of Defence said in an intelligence briefing last year that Russia is likely trying to avoid “reputational damage, reduced export prospects, and the compromise of sensitive technology” that would come from losing any Su-57 jets in enemy territory.



TELEVISION

# ‘An incredible privilege’

By Kaitlyn Huamani  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** | After 41 years and over 8,000 episodes, Pat Sajak made his final turn as the renowned host of “Wheel of Fortune” on Friday.

The season 41 finale, dubbed the “Thanks for the memories” show, opened with a clip from Mr. Sajak’s first episode as the host of “Wheel of Fortune” in 1981 and closed with Mr. Sajak’s warm message of gratitude.

In his farewell message, Mr. Sajak thanked the viewers of the beloved game show for granting him the “incredible privilege to be invited into millions of homes, night after night, year after year, decade after decade.”

Mr. Sajak, 77, also gave a heartfelt thanks to his “professional other half,” Vanna White, who has co-hosted with him for more than 40 years and delivered her emotional tribute to Mr. Sajak a day earlier.

“We’ve seen a lot of changes in each other’s lives over the years, but we’ve always been there for each other,” he said. “I will miss our nightly closes and her laughter and her good nature. She’s a very special woman.”

Among the many thanks and shoutouts Mr. Sajak offered during the final episode before his retirement, he said the crew and staff, some of whom have been working on the show as long as he has, were a “joy” to work with. “Your skills and dedication and good humor made this a place I always wanted to be,” he added.

Mr. Sajak thanked one staff member by name: his daughter Maggie. She began working as the show’s social correspondent in 2021 and he said their



Host Pat Sajak gave a heartfelt thanks to his “professional other half” in Vanna White on Friday in his final episode of “Wheel of Fortune.” Mr. Sajak retired after 41 years and over 8,000 episodes.

## Sajak says goodbye to ‘Wheel of Fortune’ as Seacrest pays tribute

collaboration has been the “best part of the last couple of years.” Mr. Sajak also mentioned his son, Patrick, and his wife, Lesly, and said that he is “blessed” to have his family.

The famed host also said that the “real stars of the show” have been the contestants who competed for cash and luxury prizes throughout the decades of the show’s run. He called them “kind and considerate,” noting that they always “took great pride in talking about their family, their hometown, their friends, their schools, their jobs, even their pets.”

Reflecting on the show’s massive reach, Mr. Sajak noted that he always found it important to keep the daily half-hour show a “safe place for family fun,” excluding any social issues or political topics from the banter he shared with contestants and

Ms. White. He said he wanted to keep the show “just a game,” before noting that to many, it became a part of their daily lives.

“Gradually, it became more than that,” Mr. Sajak continued. “A place where kids learned their letters, where people from other countries honed their English skills, where families came together along with friends and neighbors and entire generations. What an honor to have played even a small part in all that.”

Mr. Sajak’s closed out his message with a crack about how viewers could still see more of him through reruns of the show during its summer break. “The jokes will be the same, but I’d appreciate it if you’d laugh anyway,” he quipped before saying a final goodbye.

To make time for his closing message, Mr. Sajak truncated

the game by cutting out a round. He said he wanted to ensure the competition was still fair for contestants Tammi, Adrienne and Nino, so Mr. Sajak spun the wheel himself and added to their totals.

While he initially said he’d add \$1,000 to the prize money the wheel landed on, he bumped the bonus up to \$5,000 for each person after noting that it wasn’t his money he was allocating. “Little Jimmy’s surgery can wait,” he joked.

During her tribute on Thursday, Ms. White called Mr. Sajak “like a brother” and a “true lifelong friend.” In the pre-recorded video that featured clips and photos of their decades as co-workers, she added that their personal friendship has meant even more than their professional collaboration.

Mr. Sajak announced in June 2023 that he would retire from his hosting duties at the end of the show’s 41st season, with Ryan Seacrest set to succeed him. Ms. White will stay on as Mr. Seacrest’s co-host through the 2025-2026 season, based on a contract extension she signed in September.

Mr. Seacrest paid tribute to Mr. Sajak — and Ms. White — in an Instagram post on Saturday.

“Your dedication, charm, and wit have made the show a beloved part of American television for decades. Your partnership with Vanna has been nothing short of iconic, and together, you’ve created countless wonderful memories for viewers,” said Mr. Seacrest’s post, which included a photo and a video of him, Mr. Sajak and Ms. White at the game show’s familiar set. “You’ve set the standard for hosts everywhere, and this marks the end of an era.”

## Wife has no plans to join husband’s family business

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband’s family won’t stop asking me when I’m going to quit my job and work for my husband. My mother-in-law worked for my father-in-law at their small business for pretty much her whole career. My husband recently bought his dad’s business, which is going really well.

I have been ambitious in my own career, and I’m climbing the ladder at my corporate job. I adore my husband and we are both extremely proud of each other’s careers. My salary equals what his company pulls in for revenue. We agree that I’m going to follow my own career path and that it would negatively impact our lifestyle if I quit my job.

How do I politely say to people that I’m not quitting my job without sounding like an unsupportive wife or full of myself? — SURE OF MY DIRECTION

**DEAR SURE:** Assume that your in-laws mean well when they ask that question. When they inquire, smile and reply that you have no plans to retire, and your husband is in full agreement that you should continue on your career path. Then change the subject.

**DEAR ABBY:** A woman I’ve known and been friends with for 40 years has gradually changed. She has developed some health problems, and whenever she calls me, all she talks about are her ailments and treatments.

When we manage to discuss other things, she turns the subject to her political views, which are different from mine. I try to

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
DEAR ABBY

be noncommittal or change the subject, but it’s getting harder and harder. I now cringe when I

see her caller ID.

She has other friends, so I don’t know why she dumps this stuff on me. I feel our friendship has run its course, and I’d like to end it with as little pain as possible. How can I do that? — USED UP IN FLORIDA

**DEAR USED UP:** That shouldn’t be too difficult. The next time you talk and she raises the subject of politics, speak up and tell her you not only don’t agree but plan to vote for the candidate from the opposite political party. I’ll bet she drops you like a hot potato.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been slowly slogging through grad school, one course per semester. And now, after four long years, I’m finally going to graduate. I work in the industry I’m going to school for, and I’d like to invite some of my co-workers out to dinner to celebrate. While I’d love to foot the bill for everyone, I’m not financially able to do so.

How can I tactfully word the invitation so everyone knows I’m inviting them to a dinner, not treating them to one? I don’t want anyone to be embarrassed due to assumed expectations. — READY TO CELEBRATE

**DEAR READY:** A “formal” invitation may not be the way to go. Because this will be a casual no-host affair, there might be less confusion if you simply call your co-workers and explain you’d like to get together if they’re interested in celebrating with you.

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

MOVIES

## ‘Bad Boys’ are back: Whatcha gonna do?

### Smith returns in ‘Ride or Die’ with Lawrence in shotgun

By Jake Coyle  
Associated Press

**‘B**ad Boys: Ride or Die,” the fourth installment in the Will Smith-Martin Lawrence action-comedy series, is about a fight to redeem a tarnished legacy.

No, not that one. The reputation of Conrad Howard (Joe Pantoliano), the beloved captain of detectives Mike (Mr. Smith) and Marcus (Mr. Lawrence), has been posthumously besmirched. After his death, Conrad is framed as an informant for a Mexican drug cartel as a way to cloak more sinister corruption. Our detectives set out to clear his name.

Of course, the real image restoration that’s going on here is for Mr. Smith. “Ride or Die” was in development in 2022 when Mr. Smith strode onto the Oscar stage and smacked Chris Rock. The film was temporarily put on hold. Options were weighed. But 2020’s “Bad Boys for Life” made a hefty \$424.6 million before COVID-19 shut down theaters. Watcha gonna do?

The result is the first movie Mr. Smith has made in that era defined as Post Slap. Here he is, back in the driver’s seat and flying around the Miami waterfront with Mr. Lawrence riding shotgun. That’s to say: Mr. Smith is very much back in his element.

“Ride or Die,” which opened in theaters Thursday, is an attempt to pretend there haven’t been any bumps in the road along the way. More than that, this “Bad Boys,” coming 29 years after the original, would like very much to act as if nothing much has changed in not just the last two years but in the previous three decades.

Some signs of age is creeping in “Ride or Die.” Marcus has a heart attack on the dance



The comic chemistry and endearing between Will Smith (right) and Martin Lawrence is key in “Bad Boys: Ride or Die,” another sequel 29 years after the buddy cop series’ original blockbuster film.

floor and Mike is suffering from panic attacks. But with the exception of a drone or two, this is a movie that feels like it exists in the 1990s. Jerry Bruckheimer is still a producer, while original director Michael Bay has, as he did in the previous one, steps aside for Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah. (Mr. Bay returns for a cameo.)

But “Ride or Die,” set against Miami nightclubs and alligator-crawling hideouts, has largely stuck to its old buddy-cop formula with all the requisite explosions and slow-mo’ed car chases mixed in.

As before, the key is the comic chemistry and endearing bond between Mr. Smith and Mr. Lawrence. And, really, as much as the response to “Ride or Die” is sure to be taken as a referendum on Mr. Smith’s recalibrated drawing power, Mr. Lawrence is the MVP of these movies. It’s his manic comic energy that propels them.

The schtick may be a little stale at this point, but no one can deliver a line like “Chitty

Chitty Bang Bang!” in a gunfight with quite the same panache. “Ride or Die,” scripted by Chris Bremner and Will Beall, knows to prioritize crafting ripe situations for Mr. Lawrence. After his heart attack, Marcus wakes up with a new zest for life and a foolhardy feeling of invincibility.

The same might have once been said of Mr. Smith’s bulletproof screen presence, of course. Here, Mr. Smith seems a little less cocksure than he once did; those panic attacks keep coming for Mike. Mr. Smith is also playing more of a straight-man to Mr. Lawrence. If the slap caused a reassessment of Mr. Smith as a movie star, “Ride or Die” is the kind of the tailor-made vehicle that reminds you there haven’t been many better male American action stars in the last few decades.

None of this is enough to lift “Ride or Die” beyond its paint-by-numbers plotting, or prevent the film from being inevitably tethered to the Slap — not least because the film climaxes with

Marcus smacking Mike with an open hand.

But the directing duo of Adil & Bilal keep the pace moving quick enough to prevent you from dwelling too much on ridiculous details — like that Mike, as revealed in the last film, is the father to an imprisoned cartel assassin named Armando (Jacob Scipio), a prominent character this time around. And silliness is more of a feature than a bug in movies like “Bad Boys.”

You end up questioning less why Mr. Smith and Mr. Lawrence are still making “Bad Boys” movies than wondering why such breezily watchable genre movie-star platforms more or less don’t exist any longer.

This summer will also bring back “Beverly Hills Cop,” with Eddie Murphy, another reminder that — outside something like the “Fast and Furious” films — the movie industry just hasn’t produced anything like these guys for years now. Will Smith might not be going anywhere, after all.

#### TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (June 10).

Looking at life from new angles is a talent of yours. With your interesting lens and creativity unbound, you’ll solve problems that vexed people for years. Love will bring a wonderful tension that never resolves and adds beauty and excitement to your experiences. More highlights: participating in a challenge that improves your health, and a significant financial win. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 21, 5, 15 and 12.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Though it’s tempting to spill all to a complete stranger, unless that person is on the other side of a confessional booth, therapy couch or jury, the unabridged version of your story probably isn’t the best one to tell today.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Good ideas spring from knowing what you want. The move to make things more functional will also make them more beautiful. What you do to improve your own experience will improve the experience of others as well.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Some relationships are tough and can withstand many different situations, moods and tones. Others are more fragile and require a careful approach. You’ll move forward with versatility and awareness.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Advice is easy to give, hard to live. That’s why you don’t offer it up unless it’s asked of you, and even then you may nominate someone else — or possibly a search engine — for the job of disseminating instructions for living.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You will run into the kind of information that has real sticking power. Likely, this is an issue that you can’t put to rest without some kind of resolution. Your mind will turn it and work it like a piece of eternal chewing gum.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Sometimes you really do have to find your way through a situation, but today, it’s more like you’re

HOLIDAY MATHIS  
HOROSCOPE

remembering your way through because you’ve done things like this already.

Trust yourself. The problems are a little new, but not entirely.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** When people around you aren’t supportive, it doesn’t necessarily mean you are doing something wrong. Maybe they are competitive with you or simply too self-involved to pay proper attention. Either way, it’s them, not you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Though you can become completely and unselfconsciously immersed in the action, it’s not always the case, which is a good thing. The part of you that worries about what others think is also helpful because, ultimately, that matters, too.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You are an excellent friend because you don’t just tend to people the way you want to be tended to. You consider their preferences first. You cater your gifts to what you think they will like and need. And you add humor, too, so interacting with you is very fun today.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your sense of humor and lightheartedness bring joy and laughter to interactions. This creates a fun and uplifting atmosphere. The trick is to be just serious enough to get a lot of work done, too.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Is it possible to be too warm? Not really. It is possible to be too demonstrative with your love, though, so you’ll opt to radiate warmth and still keep to yourself and observe the boundaries of others. All will feel welcome in your presence.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There’s a misunderstanding to sort out. It can be a very positive experience and a learning moment for all because no one is completely wrong or completely right. The conflict is not with each other so much as with the rigid perspectives that cause gridlock.

CREATORS.COM



# Region



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators carry a red banner representing a “red line” in front of the White House on Saturday. Sen. Tom Cotton challenged the Biden administration to enforce federal law by bringing charges against vandals at the rally. ASSOCIATED PRESS

DISTRICT

## Senator calls for Biden crackdown on protesters who defaced statues

By Valerie Richardson  
The Washington Times

Sen. Tom Cotton, Arkansas Republican, urged the Biden administration to crack down on the pro-Palestinian demonstrators who vandalized statues and threw objects at a park ranger during Saturday’s protest near the White House. Protesters at the Answer Coalition’s “Stop the Genocide in Gaza” demonstration spray-painted anti-Israel and anti-Biden messages on statues at Lafayette Park, then pelted and shouted “f--- you, fascist” at a park ranger standing guard. Among those disgusted at the conduct was Mr. Cotton, who challenged the Biden administration to enforce federal law by bringing charges against the vandals. “At every turn, Joe Biden has tried to limit Israel’s freedom of action, their ability to defend themselves and to put more pressure on Israel, not pressure on Hamas and its patrons in the Middle East,” Mr. Cotton said on “Fox News Sunday.” “Just look at what happened yesterday outside the White House.” “You had anti-American pro-Hamas lunatics defacing and desecrating the statues of our great veterans, which is

a plain violation of federal law,” he said. “But Joe Biden’s government allowed it to happen, and I bet we’re not going to see any arrests or prosecutions for violating that law.” A National Park Service spokesperson told The Washington Times that the U.S. Park Police “did not make any arrests or issue citations” at Saturday’s protest, even though two officers were injured. “Unfortunately, [Saturday’s] permitted demonstration resulted in an assault of a park ranger, injuries to two U.S. Park Police officers, and significant damage to the park resources,” the spokesperson said. “Staff are beginning to assess the damage.” The protest marking the “54th anniversary of the occupation of Gaza” drew thousands of protesters, according to local news estimates. The National Park Service permit estimated a maximum of 9,000 attendees. The event included a rally with speakers and a march around the White House with a red banner to represent Mr. Biden’s “red line” on Israeli military operations in the southern Gaza city of Rafah. Protesters chanted slogans including

“intifada revolution” and “We don’t want no two-state/We want ‘48,” referring to the State of Israel’s founding in 1948. Some activists also issued explicit calls for violence with chants such as “Hezbollah, Hezbollah/Kill another Zionist now,” as shown on video posted on X. One protester was shown holding up a mask of Mr. Biden with fake blood on it. Some activists were shown waving and throwing smoke flares outside the White House, which was protected by additional security measures, including an anti-scale fence. “I’ll introduce legislation this week that imposes stiffer penalties so we can lock these lunatics up, but Joe Biden thinks that these pro-Hamas, anti-American lunatics should be guiding American policy towards Israel,” Mr. Cotton said. Hundreds attended a concurrent anti-Israel march Saturday in Los Angeles, part of a wave of pro-Palestinian protest activity triggered by the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre of 1,200 Israeli civilians and others. Two of the statues defaced by protesters at Lafayette Park were those of the Marquis de Lafayette and Jean-Baptiste de Rochambeau, both heroes of the American Revolutionary War.

VIRGINIA

## Mistrial declared for man charged with using torch to intimidate counterprotesters at rally

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.** | A Virginia judge declared a mistrial after jurors deadlocked on charges against a man accused of using a flaming torch to intimidate counterprotesters during a 2017 gathering of White nationalists in Charlottesville. The trial for Jacob Joseph Dix of Clarksville, Ohio, was the first test of a state law that makes it a felony to burn something to intimidate and cause fear of injury or death. After deliberating for about 12 hours over two days, jurors in Albemarle County Circuit Court announced Thursday that they were deadlocked. Judge H. Thomas Padrick declared a mistrial Thursday evening. Indictments unsealed last year showed 11 people had been charged with intimidation by fire, but prosecutors have not said whether additional defendants were also charged. Five people have pleaded guilty to the charge. Mr. Dix was the first to go on trial. Legislators passed the 2002 law after the state Supreme Court ruled that a cross-burning statute used to prosecute Ku Klux Klan members was unconstitutional. On Tuesday, prosecutors showed the jury videos of 300 to 400 White nationalists marching through the campus of the University of Virginia, carrying torches, shouting Nazi slogans and surrounding a much smaller group of anti-racist counterprotesters, an event that ended in chaos and fighting between the two groups. Mr. Dix’s lawyer, Peter Frazier, told the jury nothing Mr. Dix did the night



A Virginia judge declared a mistrial on Thursday in the case of Jacob Joseph Dix, who is charged with using a flaming torch to intimidate counterprotesters during the 2017 White nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Jurors were deadlocked on charges.

of Aug. 11, 2017, was criminal, and that the chants he joined in, including, “You will not replace us!” were free speech protected by the First Amendment. Henrico County Commonwealth’s Attorney Shannon Taylor, who was appointed as a special prosecutor, said she intends to try the case again and will see if there is any other evidence to pursue. “We appreciated the enormous amount of time that the jury took to consider this case of first impression,”

Ms. Taylor said. After the clash at the university, violence broke out the next day when a “Unite the Right” rally was planned. After police declared the gathering an unlawful assembly and the crowd began to disperse, James Alex Fields Jr., a White supremacist from Maumee, Ohio, intentionally rammed his car into a crowd of counterprotesters, killing one and injuring dozens. Fields is serving a life sentence for murder and hate crimes.

MARYLAND

## Harris boosts Alsobrooks at gun control rally in Prince George’s County

Area key for Democrats in Senate race

By Lindsey McPherson  
The Washington Times

Vice President Kamala Harris told a crowd of more than 100 activists in Maryland on Friday that they need to elect Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks to the U.S. Senate if Democrats are to have a shot at passing more restrictive gun laws. “This November, you have the power to elect leaders who have actually kept our communities safe,” she said. “You have the power to send Angela Alsobrooks to the United States Senate and help us win back the House as well.” Ms. Harris spoke at a rally for Ms. Alsobrooks in Landover, just outside the District in Prince George’s County, to mark Gun Violence Awareness Day. The curated crowd of gun-control and youth activists included groups such as Moms Demand Action, Students Demand Action, Brady, Team ENOUGH, Giffords and Voters of Tomorrow. She joked that she has known Ms. Alsobrooks longer than some of the youth activists have been alive, noting, “She is a leader with deep conviction and compassion.” The rally was held in the gymnasium of Kentland Community Center in Landover, Prince George’s County, where Ms. Alsobrooks has served as county executive since 2018. A local woman, Tiffani Evans, whose eight-year-old son P.J. was killed by a stray bullet that came into their home while they were eating dinner, introduced Ms. Alsobrooks. “Angela Alsobrooks has been a steady source of support,” Ms. Evans said, noting she has attended multiple events with the county executive as she advocates for improving public safety, education and economic conditions. Ms. Alsobrooks called Ms. Evans one of her heroes. “She decided she’s literally going to change the world as a result of her son’s death,” she said. “The pain that Tiffani endured is one that should have never happened.” Ms. Alsobrooks pledged that if she’s elected to the Senate she won’t back down from holding the gun manufacturers accountable. “I’ll pass gun legislation, including universal background checks, a ban on military-style assault weapons and combating illegal firearms,” she said. Ms. Harris also endorsed those policies. Democrats cannot accomplish those



Harris



Alsobrooks

goals without keeping the Senate majority, Ms. Alsobrooks said. “It has become the case that the path to the majority runs through Maryland.” Senate Republicans need to flip two seats in November to take the majority next Congress. The Maryland seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin is one they know is a reach, given it is a reliably blue state. But Republicans believe they have a shot at beating Ms. Alsobrooks with former GOP Gov. Larry Hogan, who has shown success in his two previous statewide campaigns. Top Maryland Democratic politicians attended and spoke at the rally, including Gov. Wes Moore, Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller, U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen and Rep. Glenn Ivey. Without naming Mr. Hogan directly, Mr. Moore spoke about his predecessor, saying over the eight years of the previous administration the homicide rate in Maryland nearly doubled and the nonfatal shooting rate in Maryland did double. “During that time period, we saw a general assembly that was introducing legislation that could do things like making sure we’re forcing background checks ... banning ghost guns,” Mr. Moore said. “And every single time that those bills made it to the second floor, made it to the governor’s desk, they were met with veto.” Mr. Hogan’s campaign issued a statement accusing Ms. Alsobrooks of “offering more platitudes” instead of addressing skyrocketing crime in her county. It noted that homicides are up 50% and violent crime has increased by more than 30% in Prince George’s County while declining in other parts of the state. “Gov. Hogan has put forward a plan to address this out-of-control crime wave by funding law enforcement, taking repeat violent criminals off the streets, and getting guns out of the hands of violent criminals and the mentally ill — and Angela Alsobrooks has not,” the Hogan campaign said.

VIRGINIA

## Judge, not jury, will decide Google antitrust verdict

### Justice Department dealt a setback

By Matthew Barakat  
Associated Press

A judge rather than a jury will decide whether Google violated federal antitrust laws by building a monopoly on the technology that powers online advertising. The decision Friday by U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema was a defeat for the Justice Department, which sought a jury trial when it filed the case last year in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia. The government’s right to a jury trial was based largely on the fact that it sought monetary damages to compensate federal agencies that purchased online ads and claimed they were overcharged as a result of Google’s anticompetitive conduct. The dollar values associated with those claims, though, were relatively small — less than \$750,000 — and far less significant than other remedies sought by the government, which might include forcing Google to sell off parts of its advertising technology. As a result, Google last month took the extraordinary step of writing the government a check for more than \$2 million — the \$750,000 in damages claimed by the government multiplied by three because antitrust cases allow for trebled damages. Mountain View, California-based

Google argued that writing the check rendered moot any government claim of monetary damages and eliminated the need for a jury trial. At a hearing Friday in Alexandria, Justice Department lawyers argued that the check Google wrote was insufficient to moot the damages claim, prompting a technical discussion over how experts would try to quantify the damages. Judge Brinkema ruled in favor of Google. She said the amount of Google’s check covered the highest possible amount the government had sought in its initial filings. She likened receipt of the money, which was paid unconditionally to the government regardless of whether the tech giant prevailed in its arguments to strike a jury trial, as equivalent to “receiving a wheelbarrow of cash.” Google said in a statement issued after Friday’s hearing it is “glad the Court ruled that this case will be tried by a judge. As we’ve said, this case is a meritless attempt to pick winners and losers in a highly competitive industry that has contributed to overwhelming economic growth for businesses of all sizes.” In its court papers, Google also argued that the constitutional right to a jury trial does not apply to a civil suit brought by the government. The government disagreed with that assertion but said it would not seek a ruling from the judge on that constitutional question.



## Close primaries to protect red states

*Open ballots allow Democrats to influence GOP's process*

By Tom Basile

The relevance, finances and power of political party committees have steadily declined for years following the rise of super PACs and the Citizens United decision. Advocacy organizations have become more powerful than traditional party committees, along with individual donors who can swamp an election with their own money — and agendas — using other political organizations and even, albeit illegally, nonprofits as cover.

It has long been argued that open primaries will increase turnout and involve more people in elections. While there is some logic to this argument in our era of more independent, unaffiliated and disaffected voters, the data on that is mixed at best.

There are many reasons why voters may or may not show up for a primary: political inertia, low-quality candidates, scandals, hot topics, and parties who strive to consolidate early around one nominee, to name a few.

With the powerful, left-wing political ecosystem of human, financial and information infrastructure dwarfing that of the American conservative movement, refocusing on the importance of party members choosing their party's nominees is critical.

Conservatives love to wring their hands and complain about the Soros network and the power of the Democrats' apparatus, but little is done to counter it.

We are dealing with the rise of Marxism in America and the active erosion of our basic moral, ethical and political standards. One need only look at the weaponization of government during the Biden administration against its political opposition to know we are in uncharted territory for a nation of laws and liberties.

Inclusion may be the liberal buzzword du jour. Still, for Republicans who have long championed life, morality buttressed by faith, free markets, lower taxation, fewer regulations and a strong national defense, returning to a posture of exclusivity may be necessary to protect the integrity of the party's principles.

Organizing left-leaning independents and Democrats to vote in a Republican primary in such numbers as to regularly alter the outcome of those elections would be complex. Concern about this phenomenon can be overblown, as it was during this year's New Hampshire primary, when the Trump campaign used the specter of former Democrats and independents voting for Nikki Haley to hedge if the race turned out closer than expected there.

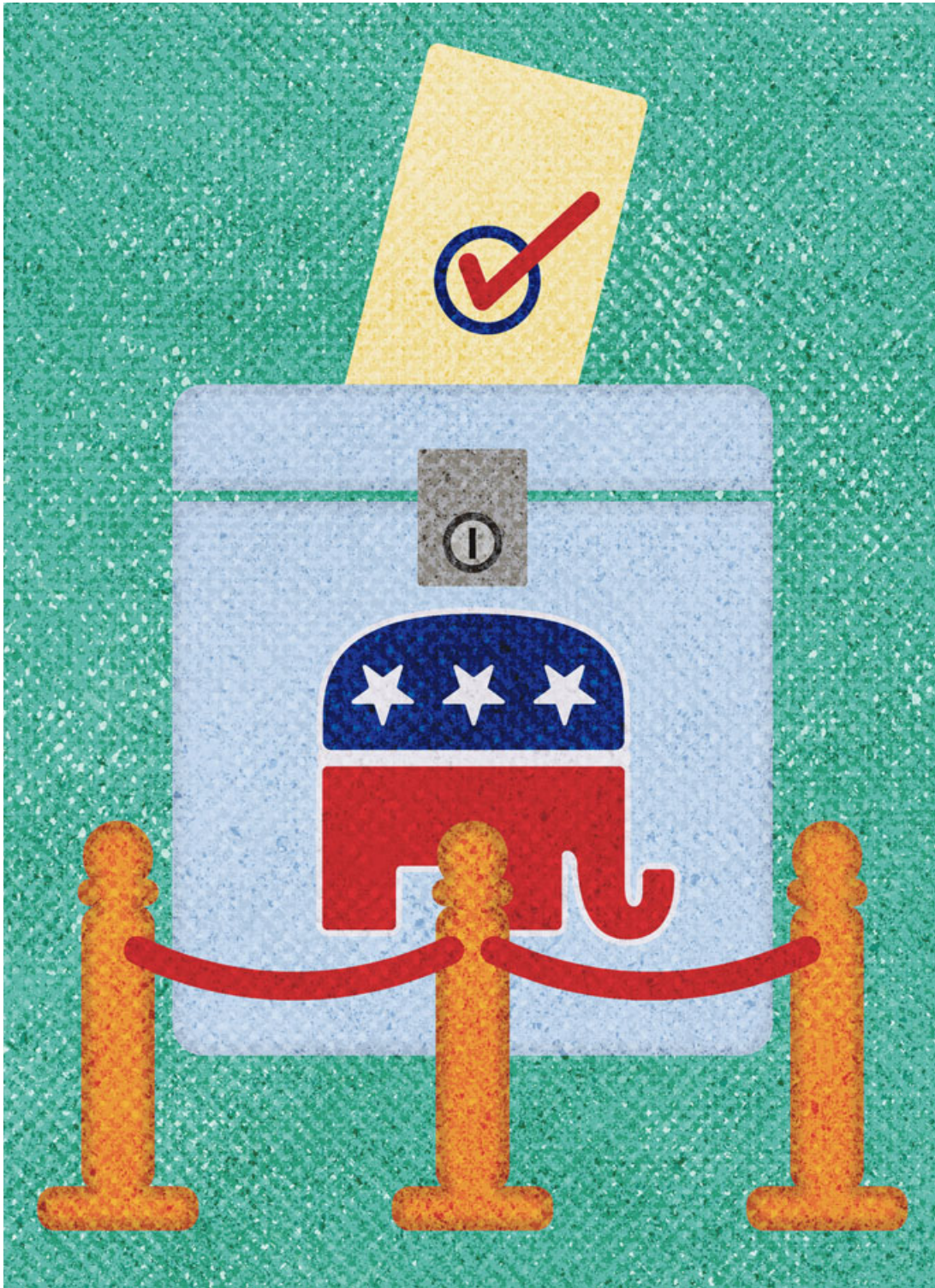


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

We've already seen Democrats spend millions on Republican primaries to influence the outcomes for their benefit, driving votes to candidates the left believes are more beatable in a general election. We should expect that some

degree of primary hijacking could be the next act of the left's political infrastructure.

The risks and rewards of this experiment with open primaries are worthy of further analysis in several states.

In 2023, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas were among the top recipients of Americans fleeing high-cost, Democratic-controlled states. All of those states are key to Republican relevance. Of those, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas have some form of open primaries.

These "new movers" are largely not looking to turn Texas into California or Tennessee into New York.

Those states benefiting from the success of their conservative policies and, therefore, increasing political influence should consider themselves in the crosshairs of the left's political apparatus. Open primary states need to consider tightening their registration and participation rules to make it harder for the left to influence Republican primaries for state and local offices in the future.

There is no reason to doubt that leftists will try.

An erosion of core Republican values through increasing influence of left-wing groups such as public employee unions, teachers unions and others from the left's ecosystem on GOP elected officials is a real and growing threat in states that have benefited from migration trends.

Open primaries have arguably aided Democrats in places like Texas, where liberal Republicans have thwarted commonsense conservative policies in the Legislature led by House Speaker Dade Phelan. That leftward shift prompted this year's massive intraparty fight to eject those members from the state House through primaries, a fight Gov. Greg Abbott largely won.

Closing primaries comes with serious responsibility for a Republican Party plagued by internal struggles. Well-run and reasoned recruitment of high-quality candidates and designating processes with a focus on winning general elections are absolutely necessary, as is strong local and state leadership. A party that nominates extremists or incompetents will ultimately lose swing seats.

Republicans must also strengthen their overtures to unaffiliated voters, disaffected Democrats, and minorities. The party should put real money behind voter registration and affinity programs and better educate the electorate on party principles.

This isn't about being exclusionary. It's about protecting core Republican and American values at a time when they are under significant threat. The Republican Party needs to be a big tent, but that doesn't mean the tent should include everyone.

Tom Basile is the host of "America Right Now" on Newsmax TV and is a columnist with The Washington Times.



## Southern Poverty Law Center: The biggest bully in the room

*The unforgivable sin of being 'hateful' and 'anti-government'*

By Robert Knight

Three cheers for Moms for Liberty.

The national parental rights group has again made the latest "hate map" of the Southern Poverty Law Center, the most prominent leftist smear machine outside of the legacy media itself.

Despite a scandal in 2019 that ousted its leadership, "SPLC annual revenue still reaches nine figures, and its assets are just shy of \$700 million," the Capital Research Center reports.

The Moms last year were designated partly because they supported reform-minded school board candidates who won elections.

The hate list includes the Family Research Council, American Family Association, Mission: America,

» see KNIGHT | B3

## Do you believe in evil?

If an absolute wrong exists, there must be an absolute right

By Everett Piper

Do you believe evil exists? Over the past several months, as you read countless stories about college students aligning with the butchery of Hamas, did you think you were witnessing something blatantly wrong? Did you know in your heart that you were watching something beyond the pale, something that was just bad, something that was evil?

These past few days, as you've been bombarded by our nation's celebration of the seventh deadly sin of "pride" and our denial of biology, our denial of genetics, our denial of science, and our denial of self-restraint. Have you felt a sense of discomfort, that something was terribly wrong?

This past week, when you looked into the eyes of the 20-year-old woman on Instagram dressed like a cat, boasting about her reasons for leaving Christianity, did you feel as if you were staring into the eyes of something that just wasn't right?

When you watched a young man shout "We are God!" at a march for abortion rights, what did you think?

When a young woman at the same rally looked into the camera and said, "I love killing babies. I love it. I've had [dozens of abortions], and I'm going to have more," what did your conscience tell you?

Did your blood run cold, and were you nearly speechless when you watched what our country has become?

Did something well up inside you? Did a voice within scream: "What is wrong with us? What is this world coming to? Somebody, please do something! Moral neutrality be damned. This insanity must stop!"

What is your reaction to all of this? Have you bought the lie that there is no such thing as right or wrong and that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as it works for you? Or, in the face of this insanity, does your heart cry out that something is desperately off-kilter? What does your gut tell you?

Do you think our cultural elites in Hollywood and Washington have it right? Do you believe that all is well, that we are on the "right side of history," and that the progress marches boldly in a positive direction? Do you think we are on the verge of utopia — that we have the

immorality, vice and virtue have immutable definitions, that the human heart has the propensity to choose poorly, and that the most empirically proven fact in all of human history is the very existence of sin and that evil is real?



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

goodness within ourselves to develop our own systems of morality — that we don't need the boundaries or restrictions of any absolute standards — that we can have liberty without the limits of the laws of nature and nature's God?

Or, in the shadow of all this, is your conscience telling you that there is an objective difference between good and bad, that right and wrong exist, that morality and

The irony is that if your answer is yes, you have more hope than those who say no. If you acknowledge that an absolute wrong exists, you must acknowledge that there is an absolute right. For there to be badness, there must be an objective goodness to serve as its measure. As the sages of the ages, from Aristotle to Augustine, have taught us over and over again: The only measuring rod of evil is the unchanging and immutable standard of good.

Wouldn't it be meaningless to protest injustice if there is no judge? Common sense tells us that the scale must be something beyond the thing being weighed. In other words, without a lawgiver bigger than you and me and our wants, desires, opinions and passions, how would any of us know what is fair or unfair, good or bad?

Think about it. If you and I are the final measure of right or wrong, then we cannot evaluate the morality of any action at any time for any reason. The logical end of such narcissism can be only a futile nihilism that we now see in the ever-increasing tribalism so pervasive in social media and our daily news feeds.

So, I ask again, as you watch the "absolute badness" of adults grooming children, the misogyny of men pretending to be women, and the blatant injustice of college students marching with those who justify the beheading of Jewish babies, do you believe in evil?

If your heart's cry is yes, then take courage. The absolute goodness you just implicitly embraced is God, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the Creator of all things, the savior of mankind, and the judge at the end of days. He is our only hope and salvation.

Everett Piper ([dreverettpiper.com](http://dreverettpiper.com), [@dreverettpiper](https://twitter.com/dreverettpiper)), a columnist for The Washington Times, is a former university president and radio host.



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Hunter’s helpers exposed

*Trial of president’s son verifies infamous laptop was always genuine*

The malign influence of the deep state was revealed in a Delaware federal courtroom Tuesday. FBI Special Agent Erika Jensen acknowledged the provenance of the notorious MacBook Pro that Hunter Biden abandoned at a computer repair shop in April 2019.

This is the same laptop, filled to the brim with fresh evidence of the first son’s felonies, seized by the FBI in December of that year. The G-men and the Justice Department sat on the device until the statute of limitations expired on the most significant crimes contained therein.

This is the same laptop that 51 former intelligence officials swore was “Russian disinformation” on the eve of the 2020 election. The top echelon of the intelligence community signed the claim, including Jim Clapper, Michael Hayden, Leon Panetta, John Brennan, John McLaughlin and Michael Morrell.

Sure, anyone paying close attention at the time knew the laptop was real. The “disinformation” letter wasn’t for them. It was for casual voters who had yet to make up their mind.

Emails can be readily authenticated through cryptographic signatures known as DKIM, or they can be verified through simple investigative techniques such as checking laptop emails against what recipients received in their inbox. Beyond that, the trove of explicit videos and photographs of the younger Biden smoking crack and cavorting with women of low character would be impossible to fabricate. Even Russia’s Foreign Intelligence Service isn’t that good.

Special Agent Jensen explained the FBI — a key member of the intelligence community — validated the laptop against Hunter’s iCloud account and ensured the device’s serial number matched Apple’s ownership records. Federal agents also obtained complete

and independent backup copies of his iPhone and laptop data from the company under a warrant.

The invoice from the repair shop where the laptop was found was in those backups in 2019. This means the intelligence community knew the laptop was legitimate from day one, but the 51 former officials signed the fraudulent “disinformation” letter anyway.

Polling shows their false assertion likely played a decisive role in handing the election to President Biden. But the fib about the laptop’s origin wasn’t just a concoction of erstwhile spooks.

Active FBI agents also peddled the lie in order to suppress laptop stories from sources such as the New York Post. In 2021, the Federal Election Commission decided not to charge Twitter with making an in-kind contribution to the Biden campaign because the social media platform censored laptop reporting in response to the bullying of “federal law enforcement agents.”

“I was told in these meetings,” former Twitter executive Yoel Roth said, “that the intelligence community expected that individuals associated with political campaigns would be subject to hacking attacks. ... I also learned in these meetings that there were rumors the hack-and-leak operation would involve Hunter Biden.”

There was no hack, and Russia wasn’t involved. These were deceptions spread for the purpose of influencing an election.

When government officials censor speech to change the outcome of an election, it’s a serious constitutional violation. Anyone who has exploited the government’s spy powers for such personal ends should be investigated and held to account, because the cycle of abuse will end only when such misdeeds have consequences.

A reckoning is long overdue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Left-wing media are Hunter’s lapdogs

Hunter Biden is a true piece of work (“Rock bottom for Hunter Biden,” web, June 6).

Snorting cocaine and smoking crack, buying drugs from and dealing with dope dealers, sleeping with his deceased brother’s widow, consorting with prostitutes, hanging out at strip clubs and lying on a weapons application make this clown dope of

the decade.

And as Hunter was doing deals with various nefarious types in Ukraine and China, the “big guy” covered for him while vice president.

Imagine that one of Donald Trump’s sons had been involved in such salaciously licentious and degenerate activities. The New York Times, The Washington Post and all

the other mainstream legacy and cable media outlets would be having a never-ending field day.

But what else is to be expected given that the mainstream media and Hunter are all insufferable weasels? They deserve one another.

EARL BEAL  
Terre Haute, Indiana

Logic-defying corruption

I have a recommendation for the Democratic Party: Change your donkey symbol to the hammer and sickle. It’s more fitting. For all intents and purposes, the recent trial of Donald Trump in New York could have taken place in Russia and had the same results.

The left’s global elitists are getting bolder all the time. The Trump trial should never have taken place to begin with, but the one that was put on was rigged from the start with a clear objective in mind: to take out a political adversary and keep power

come November.

It’s quite apparent that the Department of Justice and FBI have been weaponized to protect the Democratic Party hierarchy and steadfastly work against its adversaries. Oppose the Democrats’ agenda and meet the iron fist with a velvet glove. These organizations may hide behind the shadow of legitimacy, but they’re full of corruption.

Many policies of the Democratic Party are so insane that they defy logic. Illegals pour through our borders on an ongoing basis. We have

security issues, maintenance and accommodation costs, an influx of drugs, disease and sex trafficking, as well as increase in chaos and division in communities.

Deliberate inflation, transgender programs that lack all common sense and making America dependent on foreign oil while beating the climate change drum all fall into the category of lunacy. Let’s vote the Democrats out.

MICHAEL IMHOF  
Aurora, Illinois

Biden’s weak border move

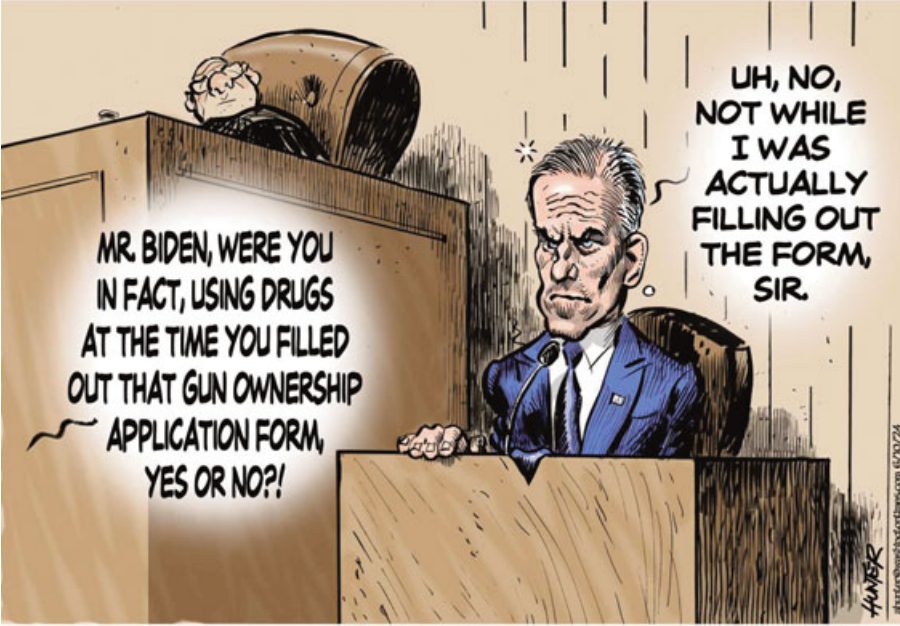
The present party running the country from the White House can be summed up using hundreds of analogies, but reading about President Biden’s latest ridiculous attempt to use an executive order to stem the flow of illegal immigrants coming into the U.S. can be best described as the little Dutch boy sticking his finger

in the dike to stem the leak (“Trump trashes Biden’s ‘fake’ executive order on immigration in first post-conviction campaign stop,” web, June 6).

Mr. Biden has just stuck all of his eight fingers and two thumbs in the border wall to stem the flood of the future tens of millions. Former President Donald Trump

has promised to round up these illegals as soon as he is president again. With that promise in mind, I pray that all American citizens will give him an overwhelming majority. Make America great again.

MICHAEL REES  
Denton, Maryland



Case closed

A bad week for the left

*The schadenfreude and audacity of people who want to regulate your life*

Last week was not a particularly good week for folks on the left.

In a transparently and embarrassingly political attempt to stop the bleeding on the issue of illegal immigration, President Biden finally decided to pretend to begin to address the disaster he created at what used to be the southern border of the United States.

For his trouble, he got beaten up and left in the middle of the road by Reps. Nanette Barragan of California and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Sen. Alex Padilla of California, all fellow Democrats. Even his pal Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware belittled the effort.

Everyone else pretty much ignored what was a profoundly trivial and ignorable event.

Meanwhile, back in the place that invented these United States — the commonwealth of Virginia — Gov. Glenn Youngkin figured he was done waiting for the General Assembly and declared Virginia’s independence from California’s ban on gasoline-powered cars. Virginia is the first state to revisit the wisdom of following California down this reckless and unwise path. It won’t be the last.

Mr. Youngkin was clear: “When far-left progressives had total control over our commonwealth, they passed a misguided bill that ... would have forced Virginians to buy electric vehicles and punish Virginia auto dealers for selling gas-powered cars. If you want to buy an electric vehicle, that’s your decision. But Virginians must have the freedom to make that decision on their own.”

The most entertaining thing, however, may have happened in New York City, where Buffalo’s finest, Gov. Kathy Hochul, decided, more or less at the last minute, to scrap plans to tax people for the right to drive to and fro in Manhattan. That plan, which goes by the unfortunate moniker of “congestion pricing,” was the product of years of painstaking work by environmentalists and busybodies and was, as one

might expect, hated by pretty much everyone.

Except for the prophets of doom. One of them noted with a tone as somber as the grave: “It does not bode well for the city and the planet if we can’t regulate the use of personal vehicles in the densest transit environment in the country.” Take a moment, and both enjoy the schadenfreude and marvel at the audacity of people who want to regulate everything about your life.

Finally, on Wednesday, Thomas Pyle, the chieftain of the American Energy Alliance, wandered into a Politico

summit — theoretically about energy but really, like all such summits, about extracting cash from the federal government — and simply pointed out that former President Donald Trump has been pretty clear about his dislike of the



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Inflation Reduction Act and his desire to get rid of it all.

Mr. Pyle horrified the assembled masses by saying, “If Donald Trump wins the election, he’s going to take a look at the revenue, the potential revenue you can generate from funds in the IRA that haven’t been spent, to fund his priorities.”

That bit of common sense seemed to surprise the crowd and the event sponsors, even though Mr. Trump himself has repeatedly made it clear that spending on wind power and electric cars is going to change

in a Trump administration and that he would impose an immediate moratorium on the “spending, grants and giveaways” contained in the Inflation Reduction Act.

I’m not sure who needs to hear this, but if you insist on erasing national borders, telling people what kinds of cars they can buy, where they can drive and when, and asking taxpayers to pay for the privilege of making other people rich through confiscation of their taxes, you should not be surprised when you eventually meet resistance.

.....  
*Michael McKenna is a contributing editor at The Washington Times and a co-host of the podcast “The Unregulated.”*

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# Two ways Congress can give small businesses relief

These companies created two-thirds of new jobs in the past 25 years

By Brad Close

Every member of Congress pledges to help small businesses. But now is the time for our nation's leaders — on both sides of the aisle — to really deliver. This is the message that hundreds of small-business owners nationwide will deliver to Congress this week. My organization is bringing them to our nation's capital because Main Street's message is too important to ignore.

But small businesses are being ignored. The media are focused on rosy economic stories, such as a 40,000-point stock market and monthly jobs numbers that smash expectations. Yet the big stories almost always reflect what's happening with Wall Street and big business.



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

Just listen to what small businesses are saying. They continue to tell us that inflation is their top concern, forcing them to raise prices. Yet inflation-driven price increases make it harder to compete with big businesses, which can absorb rising costs much more easily. The longer inflation remains stubbornly high, the less small businesses will be able to grow. Worse, some will be forced to close their doors.

Main Street can't find the workers they need, either. Two in 5 small businesses have job openings they can't fill. And an astounding 91% of small businesses report few or no qualified applicants for the jobs they are trying to fill.

Small businesses created two-thirds of new jobs over the past 25 years and want to keep being the engine of the economy. If Main Street had the support it needs, America would create record numbers of jobs a month.

Congress must help make that vision a reality. Lawmakers should relieve small businesses in two ways, avoiding a massive tax increase on the horizon and slashing excessive regulation. If they do that, Main Street will be better positioned to overcome inflation, create jobs, and drive America's economic comeback.

The first and most important thing Congress should do is cut small businesses' taxes permanently. The small-business deduction — the small-business centerpiece of the 2017 tax cuts — expires next year. If lawmakers allow that to happen, Main Street will face an unprecedented tax hike.

At least half of the nation's small businesses are uncertain about their future. They're holding back when they want to be ramping up. With disaster already beginning to unfold, Congress should act immediately.

If the small-business deduction were made permanent, 90% of local businesses would find it easier to invest in their workers and communities. All Congress needs to do is pass the bipartisan Main Street Tax Certainty Act. The small-business economic response would be immediate.

The second thing Congress should do is end a particularly burdensome mandate — the "beneficial ownership" reporting requirement. Created in 2021 and enforced since January, it's 100% targeted at the smallest of small businesses, wrapping them in red tape while giving big business a pass.

Under this mandate, more than 32 million small businesses must regularly send private personal information about their owners to a federal database. If they don't, they face up to two years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Would any member of Congress like to tell a small-business owner that they deserve to go to prison over this?

A stunning 83% of small businesses don't even know this requirement exists. They're now at risk of heavy-handed punishment. Congress will have to build hundreds of prisons in response to a law that shouldn't even exist. Congress can save small businesses by immediately passing the Repealing Big Brother Overreach Act. It's a commonsense solution that will empower Main Street to focus on growth, not government regulation.

Small businesses need action now. Each day that Congress waits makes it harder for small-business owners to deal with inflation, create jobs, and give back to their communities. Are lawmakers going to keep the promise they've all made to Main Street?

Brad Close is president of the National Federation of Independent Business.

By Don Feder

Ignore the gloating from the Fourth Estate over the Trump verdict. If you listen carefully, you can hear the death rattle of the legacy media.

Last year, The Washington Post lost \$77 million because of a 50% decline in readership since 2020. The Post's executive editor just resigned. Its publisher admits: "To speak candidly: We are in a hole, and we have been for some time." Still, they keep digging.

In the same week news broke of the Post's latest setback, Nielsen reported that CNN had its worst ratings since 1991 among prime-time viewers in the key 25-to-54-year-old demographic.

In the week of May 13-19, in the 8 a.m. to noon time slot, CNN had an average of 83,000 viewers. Fox News had twice that number in the same period.

If the mainstream media deliberately set out to alienate middle America, they could hardly have done a better job.

Ex-President Donald Trump, who is fond of using the expression "fake news," reduces them to sputtering fury. Fake coverage of his trial for falsifying business records caps almost a decade of biased coverage of the billionaire entrepreneur.

A Media Research Center study of coverage of the Trump trial by ABC, NBC and CBS found that the networks devoted a total of 640 minutes to the trial on their evening newscasts. They mentioned the fact that Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg is a partisan Democrat — who ran for office on a promise to get Mr. Trump — exactly three times.

In reporting on the prosecution's star witness, disgraced lawyer Michael Cohen, they mentioned his perjury conviction only 4% of the time.

None of the network newscasts informed viewers about trial Judge Juan Merchan's blatant conflicts of interest, including donations to the Biden campaign and a group called Stop Republicans. His daughter is a consultant for several Democratic causes.

The latest Gallup Poll on public confidence in the media, released last October, showed only 32% of Americans have a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of trust in the media, while 68% have "not much trust" or "none at all."

The public has more confidence in politicians, lawyers and used-car salesmen than in the media.

Media bias is so blatant that it's almost comical. Language is one way the media slant the news.

Pro-lifers are pilloried as "anti-choice." Murders committed with a gun are routinely referred to as "gun homicides," as if firearms went on killing sprees. Those who have the effrontery to affirm biology are "transphobes."

The flood of illegal aliens entering the country are "migrants." And Stormy Daniels was an "adult entertainer" instead of a woman who was paid to have sex in front of a camera.

Riots involving perceived racial injustice are "mostly peaceful," regardless of the number

# Media gloating over Trump verdict is a voice from the grave

Deliberately setting out to alienate middle America

injured and amount of property damaged, but the Jan. 6 riot was an "insurrection."

The mainstream media exist in an echo chamber, and that's the way they want it.

When I once worked in a newsroom, I remember listening to an editor boast about the number of racial minorities the paper had hired.

I innocently inquired how many reporters and editors were conservatives. He goggled at me.

Why does that matter, he wondered. Journalists are professionals who never, ever let news coverage reflect their bias.

And the fact that college professors are overwhelmingly on the left has no impact on

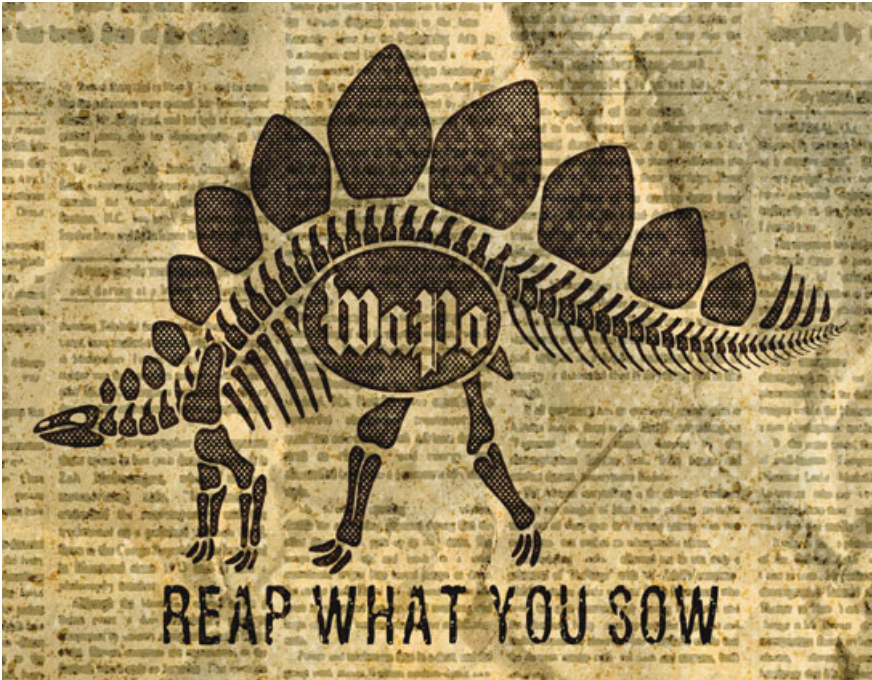


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

classroom instruction. It's just a coincidence that students are rioting for Hamas instead of marching for Israel.

The liberal media attribute criticism of the media to ignorance of the profession's exalted status as a guardian of democracy and paranoia produced by MAGA politicians and right-wing podcasters.

Media hacks are immune to change. Their bubble is impenetrable. They were stunned by the 1980 election of President Ronald Reagan. ("Who would vote for an ex-B-actor?"). Donald Trump's 2016 victory mystified them. ("He's a racist and an agent of Russian influence.")

And today, they can't understand why voters care more about the border than abortion and why so many White people obstinately refuse to feel guilty about something over which they have no control.

They are mystified by the naifs who don't understand that the answer to the crime explosion is gun confiscation, or that prosperity lies in increased government spending.

The slogan of The Washington Post is "Democracy dies in darkness." It should be "Eventually, the lies will catch up with you."

The day will come when the media elite's only audience is themselves.

Don Feder is a columnist with The Washington Times.

## Knight

From page B1

Family Foundation of Virginia, Alliance Defending Freedom, and other pro-family, faith-based groups, along with national security groups such as the Center for Security Policy ("anti-Muslim") and the Center for Immigration Studies ("anti-immigrant").

The "hate map" also includes the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, skinheads, and other extremist and violence-prone nutcases, which is the whole point of the conservative groups being lumped in with them — guilt by association.

As The Washington Times has reported, missing from the map are any of the anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian groups like the Escalate Network, which backs the terrorist group Hamas and pushes policies that would amount to a second holocaust of Jews in Israel.

Also missing are Black Lives Matter and Antifa, which spearheaded massive rioting in 2020 after George Floyd was killed.

If this were just a list compiled by one of the many crackpots out there, it wouldn't matter much. But being tagged a "hate group" by the SPLC has real implications.

The FBI has cited the SPLC as a source in targeting terrorist threats. For instance, the agency's Richmond, Virginia, bureau issued a memo warning about people who hold to "radical traditionalist Catholic ideology."

Our armed forces and federal agencies have used SPLC materials in "diversity" programs, and some have banned Christian speakers and groups over the SPLC's "hate group" label.

One of them, D. James Kennedy



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

Ministries, which recently reverted to its original name, Coral Ridge Ministries, filed a federal defamation lawsuit in 2017. But a U.S. District Court rejected the claim, saying the SPLC has a First Amendment right to label Coral Ridge a "hate group."

As a "public figure," Coral Ridge had to prove three elements, according to Cornell's Legal Information

Institute: "The 'hate group' designation had to be (1) provably false, (2) actually false, and (3) made with 'actual malice.'"

I think accusing someone falsely of "hate" in the current climate constitutes a hateful act in and of itself and is arguably defamatory. But the court threw it out, saying the term "hate group" has "a highly debatable and

ambiguous meaning."

Really? Not so ambiguous that the AmazonSmile charities program banned Coral Ridge Ministries.

Coral Ridge appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which refused to review an appeals court's upholding of the district court ruling that the group had not plausibly alleged that the SPLC acted with "actual malice."

No, of course not. Vilifying some good people falsely to the point of public ostracization that damages their ability to raise funds is downright friendly, right?

In a dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas said: "I would grant certiorari in this case to revisit the 'actual malice' standard. This case is one of many showing how New York Times and its progeny have allowed media organizations and interest groups 'to cast false aspersions on public figures with near impunity.'"

In the case of Moms for Liberty, the group's unforgivable sin is being "hateful" and "anti-government" for advocating more parent input into school curricula and books that push LGBTQ behavior on children.

The Southern Poverty Law Center said Moms for Liberty are "banning books, protesting drag story hours and using school boards as political battlegrounds." Good for them.

Apparently, the only people qualified to speak at school board meetings are those approved by the SPLC.

Other groups have sued, but only one — the Georgia-based Dustin Inman Society — has an ongoing case, thanks to U.S. District Judge W. Keith Watkins, who ruled last year that it could proceed.

Alas, as The Washington Times reports, "the SPLC's new hate map again

includes the Dustin Inman Society, listing it as 'anti-immigrant.'"

Do you think 10 million illegal aliens over the past 3½ years might be more than the United States should let in? The SPLC might want to know what groups you belong to or donate to.

Founded in 2005, the Dustin Inman Society is named after a 16-year-old boy who was killed and his mother permanently crippled when a hit-and-run driver crashed into their family vehicle on Father's Day weekend in 2000.

The alleged driver, a Mexican national here illegally, was placed on a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement most wanted fugitive list but has not been found.

The Dustin Inman Society says it is a "broad-based coalition of Americans of every race, ethnicity and description — including many immigrants."

Its mission is "to end illegal immigration, illegal employment, the illegal administration and granting of Public Benefits and services through the equal application of existing laws" and to establish English as America's official language.

One hundred-proof hate, right? They support legal immigration and acknowledge that immigrants are drawn to America because of our freedom and opportunities.

Is this a great country or what? Not if bullies like the Southern Poverty Law Center continue to get away with their hateful targeting.

Robert Knight is a columnist for The Washington Times. He once worked for Coral Ridge Ministries, which has published several of his books. His website is robertknight.com.







Legal Notices

CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD PEDESTRIAN AND BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS (TABA COVE TO WARWICK AVE) CITY OF FAIRFAX PUBLIC HEARING

July 9, 2024, 7:00 PM

Council Chambers - Room 100  
City Hall Annex  
10455 Armstrong Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030

View the Website for Project Information:  
<https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/chain-bridge-road-sidewalk-improvements>

Find out about the proposed pedestrian and bus stop improvements along Chain Bridge Road (Route 123), from Taba Cove to Warwick Avenue in the City of Fairfax. The project will provide 1,850 linear feet of complete and continuous pedestrian facilities and upgraded bus stop accommodations along the west side of Chain Bridge Road between two local Activity Centers (Old Town Fairfax to Northfax). Currently, there is no sidewalk along most of the west side of this busy corridor nor are there accessible or inviting bus stop amenities. The bus stops will be improved according to the City's Bus Stop Design Guidelines.

Pursuant with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion was prepared to evaluate potential environmental impacts. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included with the NEPA documentation.

**Project information**, including project plans, information about property impacts, right of way policies, the tentative construction schedule and NEPA documents will be available at the hearing, on the project website listed above, or at the City's Transportation Department located at 10455 Armstrong Street, Room 200, Fairfax, VA 22030.

**Give your written or oral comments** at the hearing or submit them by July 21, 2024 to Sunny Sarna, Transportation Capital Projects Manager – City of Fairfax: 10455 Armstrong Street, Room 200, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, sunny.sarna@fairfaxva.gov, or 703-273-3067.

The City of Fairfax ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance, all City government offices can be contacted by dialing 711 for TTY service.

VDOT State Project: U000-151-237, C501  
UPC: 119089

Run Dates: June 10th, 2024  
July 1st, 2024

AD#84516

ARLINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice THAT ON Thursday, June 20, 2024, at a meeting of the ARLINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD (HALRB) at 6:30 p.m. In person and through electronic communications means, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held on the following applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) and for other business:

CLARENDON SCHOOL LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Z-2256-84

- 3550 Wilson Blvd. (RPC: 19-016-004) – Request to install two temporary banners and to extend the duration of an outdoor art installation.

MAYWOOD LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Z-2686-90

- 2907 23rd St. N. (RPC: 05-060-001) – Retroactive request to install a front accessibility walkway with a fence.
- 3412 21st Ave. N. (RPC: 05-057-032) – Request to construct an accessory building with a set-back modification.

HOW TO VIEW AND PARTICIPATE

This is a hybrid public meeting to be held at the Bozman Government Center and be available to the public in person and through electronic communication means. Staff and commissioners will be in person in Room 216 at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. Applicants, County staff, and members of the public may join the meeting in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

The public can participate by sharing live verbal testimony in person or on-line, or by submitting written comments in advance. Visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Historical-Affairs-Landmark-Review-Board> to:

- Sign-up to speak on-line during the public hearing by 5:00 PM on the day of the hearing.
  - Speakers will join the meeting via Microsoft Teams (accessible through a web browser or the free app), or, via a phone line to provide their comments.
- To register by phone, contact the Board's staff liaison, Mical Tawney at 703-228-3838 by 5:00 PM the day of the hearing.
- In person speakers may register by completing a speaker slip in the meeting room before the meeting begins or by registering online by 5:00 PM on the day of the hearing.
- Submit written comments online to the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board. Comments received by 2:00 PM on the day of the hearing will be provided to the Board in advance of the public hearing.

For questions about this notice, contact Mical Tawney, [mtawney@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mtawney@arlingtonva.us); 703-228-3838.

Run Date: June 10th, 2024

AD#84475

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Legal Notices

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Office of Contracting and Procurement

PROCUREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of the District of Columbia is soliciting proposals for the following:

CAPTION: DC Employees Health Benefits Program

The District of Columbia Office of Contracting and Procurement, on behalf of the Department of Human Resources, is seeking to enter into a contract or contracts with licensed health care insurance carrier(s) to administer one or more health benefit plans for District employees, retirees, temporary continuation of coverage participants, and eligible dependents.

MARKET TYPE: RFP Open Market

ADVERTISING/ISSUANCE DATE: June 10, 2024

Request for Proposals

RFP NUMBER: Doc723054

CLOSING DATE: June 28, 2024

CLOSING TIME: 2:00 P.M.

BID DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

OCP WEBSITE ADDRESS: [www.ocp.dc.gov](http://www.ocp.dc.gov)

June 10, 2024

Ad#84500

Public Notice

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to modify telecommunications equipment within the equipment room of an existing 155-foot building located at 515 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20004. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Project 016252-PR - CR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, [crobinson@ebiconsulting.com](mailto:crobinson@ebiconsulting.com) or at 978.877.3493.

June 10, 2024

Ad#84544

Academy of Hope  
Adult Public Charter School

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Developer for Student Information System (SIS)

The Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School located in Washington, DC requests proposals for Developer for Student Information System (SIS). Proposals are due June 18th, 2024. You can find the detailed request for proposal and submission information at <https://aohdc.org/jobs/>

June 3rd thru 14th, 2024

Ad#84344

Academy of Hope  
Adult Public Charter School

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Flex Office Design Ward 5 & 8

The Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School located in Washington, DC requests proposals from vendors for Flex Office Design at both of our campuses. Proposals are due June 18th, 2024. You can find the detailed request for proposal and submission information at <https://aohdc.org/get-involved/jobs/>

June 3rd thru 14th, 2024

Ad#84345

THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

New Security System/High Resolution IP Video Surveillance System Takeover & Upgrade

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the removal and replacement of New Security System/High Resolution IP Video Surveillance System Takeover & Upgrade. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

Timmy Kimber  
Chief Of Staff  
THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedsschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedsschool.org)  
(202) 248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17th, 2024 at 12:00pm

All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.

June 7th thru June 15, 2024

Ad#84406

THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Asphalt Pavement

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Asphalt Pavement. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

Timmy Kimber  
Chief Of Staff  
THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedsschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedsschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024

Ad#84407

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following named company at the address listed herewith has made application to engage in the business of loaning money for the license year ending December 31, 2024 as provided by the Act of Congress, approved February 14, 1913. Applicant Company Name: Measured Financial, Inc. Address: 187 Lafayette Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10013. Anyone desiring to protest against the issuance of this license should do so in writing to the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking, 1050 First Street, NE, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20002, in the manner prescribed by said Act: See DC Code Title 26, Chapter 9 and 16 DCMR 2.

June 10,11,17,18,24,25, 2024

Ad#84440

THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Renovations of Academic Building

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Renovations of Academic Building. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

Timmy Kimber  
Chief Of Staff  
THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedsschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedsschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024

Ad#84410

Legal Notices

DC & Maryland Virginia  
202-636-4953 703-425-0903

The Washington Times

Legal Notices

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

NOTICE OF CANDIDACY OF:

Sherri Beatty Arthur

This is to notify members of the bench, bar, and public that the above-named Magistrate Judge has declared her candidacy for reappointment as a Magistrate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Magistrate Judge Sherri Beatty Arthur's term will expire July 20, 2024.

Pursuant to the Standards and Procedures for the Selection and Tenure of Magistrate Judges, a committee of Superior Court Judges designated by the Chief Judge will review the Magistrate Judges prior service and any comments from members of the bench, bar, and public. Following its review, the Committee will submit to the Chief Judge a written report and recommendation concerning the candidacy for reappointment. Comments on the performance of each Magistrate Judge submitted to the Committee are confidential and will not be released to the public or the Magistrate Judge. Any comments discussed with a Magistrate Judge will be discussed without revealing the source of such comment, absent written consent by the individual providing the comment. All comments must be received no later than July 9, 2024 and should be sent to Judge Michael O'Keefe at [MagistrateJudgeCommittee@dcsc.gov](mailto:MagistrateJudgeCommittee@dcsc.gov)

Any information received by the Committee concerning a candidate under consideration for reappointment shall be maintained in strict confidence.

June 10,17, 2024

Ad#84392

THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Renovation to Staff Apartments

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Renovations to Staff Apartments. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

Timmy Kimber  
Chief Of Staff  
THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedsschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedsschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024

Ad#84409

Trustee Sales:  
Prince George's Co.

Law Offices of Jeffrey Nadel  
4041 Powder Mill Road, Suite 200  
Calverton, Maryland 20705  
240-473-5000

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE  
OF REAL PROPERTY

5311 Melwood Park Avenue  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Linda Auls and Michael Auls, dated May 4, 2006, and recorded in Liber 25819, Folio 500 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction at Circuit Court for Prince George's Co., 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St. on

June 11, 2024 at 11:30 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND KNOWN AS Lot 44, Block A, Melwood Park, situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust, carrying Tax ID No. 15-2931160.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, agreements, easements, covenants and rights of way of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind. SOLD SUBJECT TO a prior deed of Trust recorded December 29,2005 in Liber 23845 at page 350 in the original principal sum of \$472,500.00.

Terms of Sale:A deposit of \$10,000.00 will be required at the time of sale in the form of cash, certified check, or other form as the Substitute Trustees determine acceptable. No deposit shall be required of the noteholder where the noteholder bids in the property at auction. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, time being of the essence for purchaser. In the event that settlement does not occur within the said ten days, the purchaser shall be in default. Upon such default the Trustees may file a Motion and Order to Resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser, and purchaser(s) hereby consent to entry of such resale order without further notice, in which case the deposit shall be forfeited and all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then readvertise and resell the property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser; or, without reselling the property, the Trustees may avail themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser. Interest to be paid on the purchase money less the school deposit called for herein, at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of auction to the date funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustee. There shall be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason, including but not limited to exceptions to sale, bankruptcy filings by interested parties, Court administration of the foreclosure or unknown title defects. All taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, are to be adjusted to the date of auction and thereafter are to be assumed by the purchaser. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, agricultural transfer tax, if any and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of damage to the property from the date of auction forward. If the Substitute Trustee does not convey title for any reason, including but not limited to the Secured Party executing a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allowing the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, or if the sale is not ratified for any reason including errors made by the Substitute Trustees, the foreclosure sale shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or in equity shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Further terms and particulars may be announced at time of sale, and purchaser may be required to execute a Memorandum of Sale at the time of auction. (Matter #300893)

Jeffrey Nadel, Scott Nadel and Daniel Menchel,  
Substitute Trustees

Tidewater Auctions, LLC  
305 West Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 105,  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
410-825-2900

Washington Times,5/27, 6/3, 6/10

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The Washington Times



Trustee Sales:  
Prince George's Co.

Law Offices of Jeffrey Nadel  
4041 Powder Mill Road, Suite 200  
Calverton, Maryland 20705  
240-473-5900

**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE  
OF REAL PROPERTY**

4611 Pistachio Lane  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Denise D. Kennedy, dated April 10, 2007, and recorded in Liber 27793, Folio 491, and re-recorded in Liber 32615, Folio 485, and re-recorded in Liber 40541, Folio 231 among the Land Records of Prince George's County, MD, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Substitute Trustee will sell at public auction at Circuit Court for Prince George's Co., 14735 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD, Duval Wing entrance, located on Main St. on

June 25, 2024 at 11:30 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND KNOWN AS Lot 57, Plat Two, Coral Hill Townhomes, situated in Prince George's County, MD and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust, carrying Tax ID No. 06-0601260.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, agreements, easements, covenants and rights of way of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

**Terms of Sale:** A deposit of \$29,000.00 will be required at the time of sale in the form of cash, certified check, or other form as the Substitute Trustees determine acceptable. No deposit shall be required of the noteholder where the noteholder bids in the property at auction. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, time being of the essence for purchaser. In the event that settlement does not occur within the said ten days, the purchaser shall be in default. Upon such default the Trustees may file a Motion and Order to Resell the property at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser, and purchaser(s) hereby consent to entry of such resale order without further notice, in which case the deposit shall be forfeited and all expenses of this sale (including attorney's fees and the full commission on the gross sale price of this sale) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. The Trustees may then readvertise and resell the property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser; or, without reselling the property, the Trustees may apply themselves of any legal or equitable remedies against the defaulting purchaser. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive the surplus, if any, even if such surplus results from improvements to the property by said defaulting purchaser. Interest to be paid on the purchase money less the stated deposit called for herein, at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of auction to the date funds are received in the office of the Substitute Trustee. There shall be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason, including but not limited to exceptions to sale, bankruptcy filings by interested parties, Court administration of the foreclosure or unknown title defects. All taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, are to be adjusted to the date of auction and thereafter are to be assumed by the purchaser. Cost of all documentary stamps, transfer taxes, agricultural transfer tax, if any and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of damage to the property from the date of auction forward. If the Substitute Trustee does not convey title for any reason, including but not limited to the Secured Party executing a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allowing the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, or if the sale is not ratified for any reason including errors made by the Substitute Trustees, the foreclosure sale shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy in law or in equity shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Further terms and particulars may be announced at time of sale, and purchaser may be required to execute a Memorandum of Sale at the time of auction. (Matter #17805)

Jeffrey Nadel, Scott Nadel and Daniel Menchel,  
Substitute Trustees

Tidewater Auctions, LLC  
305 West Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 105,  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
410-825-2900

Washington Times, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24

Trustee Sales:  
Fairfax Co.

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
1158 CYPRESS TREE PL  
HERNDON, VA 20170

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$423,193.00, dated August 30, 2019, and recorded in Deed Book 25878, Page 964 and as Instrument Number 2019054327.002 in Fairfax County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road), at Fairfax, Virginia 22030 on July 15, 2024 at 2:30pm**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee**  
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
11350 McCormick Road,  
Executive Plaza I, Suite 302  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031  
(844) 442-2150  
(470) 321-7112

June 10th, 2024  
June 17th, 2024

AD#83349

Trustee Sales:  
Fairfax Co.

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
6025 ARLINGTON BLVD  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22044

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$165,000.00, dated February 8, 2007, and recorded in Deed Book 19115, Page 0001 and as Instrument Number 2007004087.003 in Fairfax County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road), at Fairfax, Virginia 22030 on July 15, 2024 at 2:45pm**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

PARCEL B, (15,881 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS), SPRINGBERG'S ADDITION TO FALLSWOOD GLEN COURT AS PER DEED OF DEDICATION AT DEED BOOK 15460 PAGE 1165 AS RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee**  
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
11350 McCormick Road,  
Executive Plaza I, Suite 302  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031  
(844) 442-2150  
(470) 321-7112

June 10th, 2024  
June 17th, 2024

AD#83349

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
6001 Curtler Drive  
Unit D  
Alexandria, VA 22310

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated December 6, 2002 and recorded on December 10, 2002 in Book 13715 at Page 00881 in Instrument # 2002039894.006 of Fairfax County land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction **at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road), at Fairfax, Virginia on July 16, 2024 at 11:00 AM** the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in Fairfax County, Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows:

Unit 6001-D, TIERS OF MANCHESTER LAKES CONDOMINIUM, a condominium in accordance with the Declaration of Condominium and Exhibits attached thereto, recorded in Deed Book 6867 at page 1514, amended in Deed Book 6876 at page 174, re-recorded in Deed Book 6892 at page 1267, further amended in Deed Book 6940 at page 25, further amended in Deed Book 6955 at page 1986, further amended in Deed Book 6965 at page 657, further amended in Deed Book 6975 at page 1394, further amended in Deed Book 6983 at page 1153, further amended in Deed Book 7000 at page 613, further amended in Deed Book 7030 at page 678, and further amended in Deed Book 7047 at page 1446, among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Tax No.: 0911 15 6001D

Property address: 6001 Curtler Drive, Unit D, Alexandria, VA 22310

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, as might be listed in this notice or may be announced at the sale.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$7,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(23-25492)

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC**  
(Attorney for  
TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC)  
484 Viking Drive, Suite 203  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
(757) 213-2959

June 10th, 2024  
June 17th, 2024

AD#83805

Trustee Sales:  
Fairfax Co.

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
13550 LAVENDER MIST LN  
CENTREVILLE, VA 20120

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$327,420.00, dated June 2, 2014, and recorded in Deed Book 23677, Page 1468 and as Instrument Number 2014014156.001 in Fairfax County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road), at Fairfax, Virginia 22030 on July 15, 2024 at 2:15 PM**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT, PARCEL OR TRACT OF LAND, SITUATE AND LYING IN THE COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

LOT 129, SECTION 3, FAIRCREST NORTH, AS THE SAME IS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 14779 AT PAGE 1794, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO MEHRNOOSH SHIRAZI LINIE, SEPARATE BY DEED FROM ANTHONY S. AFLATOONI RECORDED 12/03/2007 IN DEED BOOK 19685 PAGE 2007, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

TAX ID# 0551-27-0129

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee**  
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
11350 McCormick Road,  
Executive Plaza I, Suite 302  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031  
(844) 442-2150  
(470) 321-7112

June 10th, 2024  
June 17th, 2024

AD#83598

**Trustee Sales:  
Alexandria**

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
1804 W Abingdon Drive, #201,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$222,000.00 dated May 25, 2005 and recorded as Instrument No. 050017642, Page 000617, of the City of Alexandria land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **main entrance of the courthouse for the Circuit Court of the City of Alexandria, 520 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on June 24, 2024 at 3:45 PM**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

Condominium Unit No. 1804-201, Potowmack Crossing II Condominium, in accordance with the Declaration of Condominium and Exhibits attached thereto, recorded in Deed Book 1508, at Page 564, among the Land Records of the City of Alexandria, Virginia;

Together with the "Common Element Interest" of said Unit as more particularly set forth in the aforesaid Declaration.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor's tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit by the Substitute Trustee of the conduct of the auction itself as well as the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust, including, but not limited to, determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, c/o McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC, 3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Lenox Title Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee  
c/o Adrian G. Jacobs, Esq.  
McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC  
3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260  
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092  
Phone: 404.474.7149  
Fax: 404.745.8121  
MTG File No.: VA2023-00300-1

Run Dates: June 3rd, 2024  
June 10th, 2024

AD#83145

Trustee Sales:  
Arlington Co.

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
3515 19TH ST S  
ARLINGTON, VA 22204

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$339,708.00, dated January 4, 2017, and recorded as Instrument Number 2021010007664 in Arlington County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **in front of the entrance doors to the Circuit Court, Arlington County Justice Center, 1425 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201 on July 08, 2024 at 1:00 PM**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

LOT THREE C (3C) AND LOT THREE D (3D), BLOCK THIRTEEN (13), OF THE SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "DOUGLAS PARK", AS THE SAME IS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF THE SUBDIVISION MADE BY GEORGE E. GARRETT, CIVIL ENGINEER, DATED FEBRUARY 9, 1924, ATTACHED TO AND RECORDED WITH A CERTAIN SUPPLEMENTAL DEED OF TRUST FROM THE WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, ET ALS TO JOHN W PRICE AND PAUL DELANEY, TRUSTEES, DATED MAY 20, 1924 AND DULY RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, IN DEED BOOK 205, AT PAGE 569, ET SEP.

TAX ID: 31-004-012

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee**  
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
11350 McCormick Road,  
Executive Plaza I, Suite 302  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031  
(844) 442-2150  
(470) 321-7112

June 3rd, 2024  
June 10th, 2024

AD#83443

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
1724 South Edgewood Street  
Arlington, VA 22204

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated May 19, 2006 and recorded on May 24, 2006 in Book 3983 at Page 787 of Arlington County land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction immediately **in front of the entrance doors to the Courthouse a/k/a Arlington County Justice Center, 1425 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia on July 17, 2024 at 10:30 AM** the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows:

Lot Numbered 41 to 44 incl. in Block Lettered "sec 2" in a subdivision known as THOMPSON AND HOFFMAN DIV", as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book at plat among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia, and having a property address of 1724 S. Edgewood St., Arlington, VA 22204.

BEING the fee simple property which, by Deed dated August 4, 1994, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Arlington, Virginia, in Book 2690, Page 1613, was granted and conveyed by A. Ambrose Onai unto Mario E. Ramirez and Gloria M. Ramirez.

Tax No.: 31-001-046

Property address: 1724 South Edgewood Street, Arlington, VA 22204

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, as might be listed in this notice or may be announced at the sale.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$44,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(18-08796)

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC**  
(Attorney for  
TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC)  
484 Viking Drive, Suite 203  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
(757) 213-2959

June 10th, 2024  
June 17th, 2024

AD#83801

Trustee Sales:  
Prince William Co.

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
11701 SANDAL WOOD LN  
Manassas, VA 20112

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated November 10, 2022 and recorded on November 14, 2022 in Instrument # 202211140078827 of Prince William County land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction **at the front of the Prince William County Circuit Court (9311 Lee Avenue) at Manassas, Virginia on July 16, 2024 at 01:00 PM** the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows:

LOT TWO HUNDRED TEN (210), SECTION 4, RIVERVIEW ESTATES, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 1534 at page 536, as amended in Deed Book 1588 at page 424, among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia.

For informational purposes only: The improvements thereon being known as 11701 Sandal Wood Lane, Manassas, Virginia 20112 Tax ID: 7994-30-6416

Tax No.: 7994-30-6416

Property address: 11701 SANDAL WOOD LN, Manassas, VA 20112

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, as might be listed in this notice or may be announced at the sale.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$76,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(24-09297)

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC**  
(Attorney for  
TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC)  
484 Viking Drive, Suite 203  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
(757) 213-2959

June 10th, 2024  
June 17th, 2024

AD#83799

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
5871 MOONBEAM DR  
WOODBRIIDGE, VA 22193

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$436,000.00, dated April 10, 2006, and recorded as Instrument Number 200604170059321 in Prince William County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia 20110 on July 15, 2024 at 12:30 PM**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

LOT 40, WINDING CREEK ESTATES, SECTION 5, AS THE SAME IS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 1841, Page 993, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

TAXID: 8091-6129

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee**  
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
11350 McCormick Road,  
Executive Plaza I, Suite 302  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031  
(844) 442-2150  
(470) 321-7112

June 10th, 2024  
June 17th, 2024

AD#83600

JOIN  
OUR TEAM

washingtontimes.com/careers

The Washington Times



Trustee Sales:  
Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE  
10668 MEADOW GROVE CT  
MANASSAS, VA 20109

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$156,000.00, dated December 14, 2018, and recorded as Instrument Number 201812170089325 in Prince William County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia 20110 on July 08, 2024 at 4:30pm**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

LOT 29, SECTION 1, ASHTON GLEN, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 658 AT PAGE 762, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
**RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee**  
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
11350 McCormick Road,  
Executive Plaza I, Suite 302  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031  
(844) 442-2150  
(470) 321-7112

June 3rd, 2024  
June 10th, 2024

AD#83587

TRUSTEE'S SALE  
7001 KODIAK CT  
MANASSAS, VA 20111

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$700,000.00, dated July 30, 2021, and recorded as Instrument Number 202108030090629 in Prince William County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia 20110 on July 08, 2024 at 4:45 pm**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

LOT 40, SECTION 1, BEAR CREEK, AS THE SAME APPEARS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED, AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 1570 AT PAGE 1106, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
**RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee**  
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
11350 McCormick Road,  
Executive Plaza I, Suite 302  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031  
(844) 442-2150  
(470) 321-7112

June 3rd, 2024  
June 10th, 2024

AD#83597

Trustee Sales:  
Prince William Co.

Trustee's Sale  
13976 Cannondale Way #94,  
Gainesville, Virginia 20155  
(Parcel ID: 7397-67-9373.01)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated December 16, 2016, in the original principal amount of \$265,010.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia in Instrument No. 201612270105683, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on **July 16, 2024, at 01:00 PM** in front of the building housing the **Prince William County Circuit Court**, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110, the property designated as Unit 94, Phase 30, Heathcote Commons Condominium, as set forth in amended and restated declaration of Heathcote Commons Condominium, recorded as Instrument Number 201011100100630, as amended in Instrument Number 201204060032433, and any and all prior and/or subsequent amendments thereto, and as shown or noted on any plat(s) attached thereto, among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$26,500.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of [www.glasserlaw.com](http://www.glasserlaw.com), outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or REO Solutions, LLC, and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 228089-06, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Run Dates: June 10, 2024  
June 17, 2024

AD#83939

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE  
7000 Courtyard Way, Haymarket, VA 20169  
(Tax Map #7298-95-3520)

In execution of certain liens for unpaid assessments as perfected by the recording of certain memoranda of liens for unpaid assessments in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia, ("Land Records") on June 21, 2022 as Instrument Number 202206210046698, and on June 26, 2023 as Instrument Number 202306260032243 (the "Liens"), the Westmarket Homeowners Association, Inc. ("Association"), by its appointed Trustee, as identified below, will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder on **June 21, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.**, at the main outside entrance to the Courthouse of the Circuit Court of Prince William County at **9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110**, the real property and improvements with the street address of **7000 Courtyard Way, Haymarket, VA 20169 (Tax Map #7298-95-3520)** and briefly described as:

Lot 11, Landbay 2, Section 1, WESTMARKET, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded as Instrument No. 200109190097464 and platted in Instrument No. 200109190097465 among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia.

TERMS OF SALE: The Property will be sold in "AS IS" condition and without any warranty as to any respect, restriction, covenant, or condition of the Property and subject to any liens, violations, and or all other matters taking priority over the Association's Liens, including, but not limited to, any deeds of trust. The sale is further subject to all provisions, restrictions, easements, covenants, and conditions as contained in the Association's original Declaration, Bylaws and other governing instrument, and any amendments thereto.

A nonrefundable bidder's deposit of \$15,000 will be required to be paid by the successful bidder in cash, certified funds or by cashier's check. Settlement within 30 days of sale and title will transfer by trustee's deed with special warranty of title. Additional terms to be announced at sale. If Trustee is unable for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title to the Property, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy in law and equity shall be the return of its deposit, without interest. Trustee reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to (1) announce additional terms at the time of sale, (2) waive or modify the requirement with respect to the bidder's deposit, (3) accept or reject any or all bids, (4) extend the time to receive bids, (5) withdraw the Property from the sale at any time, and (6) postpone settlement following sale for a reasonable period of time as determined by Trustee. The information contained herein was obtained by sources deemed to be reliable but is offered for information purposes only. The Association cannot make any representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy of this information.

Direct any inquiries to counsel for the Association, Kristen L. Buck, Rees Broome, PC, 1900 Gallows Road, Suite 700, Vienna, Virginia 22182, (703) 790-1911.

M. Wilcox Law, PLLC, Trustee, Attn: Mona Wilcox, 2018 N. Oakland St, Arlington, VA 22207, (412) 779-9927 (Telephone), [mona@mwilcoxlaw.com](mailto:mona@mwilcoxlaw.com)

June 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2024 AD#84536



Trustee Sales:  
Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE  
231 SWITCHYARD COURT  
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22405

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$404,011.00, dated January 30, 2019, and recorded as Instrument Number LR190001495 in Stafford County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction **on the courthouse steps of the Circuit Court building for the County of Stafford located at 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, Virginia 22555-0069 on July 15, 2024 at 4:15pm**, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

LOT 702 AS SHOWN "RECORD PLAT LEELAND STATION, SECTION 6A/6B", DATED MARCH 18, 2016 PREPARED BY BOWMAN CONSULTING GROUP, LTD., AND RECORDED ON APRIL 18, 2017 AT PLAT MAP NUMBER PM170000039 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK OF STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
**RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee**  
c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
11350 McCormick Road,  
Executive Plaza I, Suite 302  
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031  
(844) 442-2150  
(470) 321-7112

May 10th, 2024  
June 10th, 2024  
June 17th, 2024

AD#83617

Order Of Pub - Domestic:  
Alexandria

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1, 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

**City of Alexandria**  
520 King Street,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No. CL24001287  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **Breyhanna Marie Davion v. Kayle Jordon Baker**

The object of this suit is to:  
Complainant prays she be granted a divorce from the bond of matrimony on the ground that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation and without interruption for more than six months since May, 2018.

It is ORDERED that **Kayle Jordon Baker** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **July 8th, 2024**  
DATE:  
**Jackie Garcia**  
Deputy Clerk  
May 27, 2024  
June 3, 10 & 17, 2024  
AD#84099

Order Of Pub - Domestic:  
Prince William Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE § 8.01-316

**PRINCE WILLIAM JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT**

Case No. JJ159773-01-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **RODAS OCHOA, ALISSON ADRIANA**

The object of this suit is to:  
DETERMINE CUSTODY OF ALISSON ADRIANA RODAS OCHOA (DOB: May 10, 2014) BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

It is ORDERED that the defendant **WILLIAM ALEXANDER RODAS** appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before **July 2, 2024 10:00 AM**.  
DATE: April 30, 2024  
**Jasmine Henderson**  
CLERK  
May 20 & 27, 2024  
June 3 & 10, 2024  
AD#83850

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**  
9311 LEE AVE,  
MANASSAS

Case No. CA 24-31  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re **adoption of JELANI MENNILIK SHAKUR SMITH**  
**Leayon Marden Carty, Petitioner**  
**Yechima Anesta Carty, Petitioner**

The object of this suit is to:  
Adoption of Minor Child by Step-parent

It is ORDERED that **WENTWORTH SMITH, JR.** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **Thursday, July 11, 2024**  
Date: May 22, 2024  
**Jacqueline C. Smith**  
ESQ  
CLERK  
May 27, 2024  
June 3, 10 & 17, 2024  
AD#84054

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Order Of Pub - Domestic:  
Prince William Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Va. Code Ann. §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

**CITY OF WAYNESBORO CIRCUIT COURT**  
250 SOUTH WAYNE AVENUE,  
SUITE 202,  
WAYNESBORO

Case No. CL24000137-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
**McCALL, Ashley Blaine**  
**McCALL, Christopher Starr**

The object of this suit is to:  
Grant Petitioner a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the Defendant

It is ORDERED that **Christopher Starr McCall** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **July 10, 2024**.

May 21, 2024  
**Paul A. Dryer**  
JUDGE

A TRUE CORRECT COPY  
TESTE: Monica Morris,  
Chief Deputy CLERK  
Circuit Court  
City of Waynesboro

May 27, 2024  
June 3, 10 & 17, 2024  
AD#84083

Estate Alexandria

NOTICE OF INTENDED TRANSFER

State Department Federal Credit Union hereby gives notice that it will transfer **\$164,917.41** from the account of **Muhamina Farsy** 30 days after last publication of this notice.

The funds will be transferred to **Jabir Al Quseimy, Personal**  
Representative of the estate. The decedent died while domiciled in Washington, DC. Written claim to said funds should be sent to **SDFCU, 1630 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314**.  
Attn: William Parker.

Publication dates:  
6-3-2024, 6-10-2024  
6-17-2024, 6-24-2024  
Ad#84304

Order Of Pub - Domestic:  
Prince William Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY


IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF A CHILD TO BE KNOWN AS **ISRAEL XAVIER REGAZZI**  
Birth Certificate Registration Number 145-18-021673  
Registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia  
By **PAUL REGAZZI** AND **GERRI REGAZZI**

File No. CA 24-18

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
**COME NOW**, your Petitioners, **Paul Thomas Regazzi** and **Gerri Ann Regazzi**, upon their Petition for Adoption of the minor child, and it appearing by affidavit filed according to law that diligence has been used by the Petitioners to determine in what city or county the Respondent, **Abubakar Sidkie Bundu**, is located without success, it is therefore **ORDERED** that the Respondent, **Abubakar Sidkie Bundu**, appear on or before **Thursday July 4, 2024 at 10:30 AM**, before this Court and do what is necessary to protect his interests. And it is further **ORDERED** that this Order be published once per week for four successive weeks in the **Washington Times**, a newspaper of general circulation within Prince William County and that a copy of this Order be posted on the front door of the courthouse wherein this Court is held. Entered this 15th day of May, 2024  
**Jacqueline C. Smith**  
Clerk of the Prince William County Circuit Court  
By: **Ana I. Seger**  
Senior Deputy Clerk  
Circuit Court-Civil Division

I ASK FOR THIS:  
**The Irving Law Firm, P.C.**  
**Rachel Gries**  
VSB #95801  
And/or Robert H. Klima  
VSB #18884  
9253 Mosby Street,  
2nd Floor  
Manassas, VA 20110  
Phone: 703-530-9001  
Fax: 703-530-8555  
[rachel@theirvinglawfirm.com](mailto:rachel@theirvinglawfirm.com)  
[RHKlima@theirvinglawfirm.com](mailto:RHKlima@theirvinglawfirm.com)  
Counsel for Petitioners

May 20 & 27, 2024  
June 3 & 10, 2024  
AD#83854

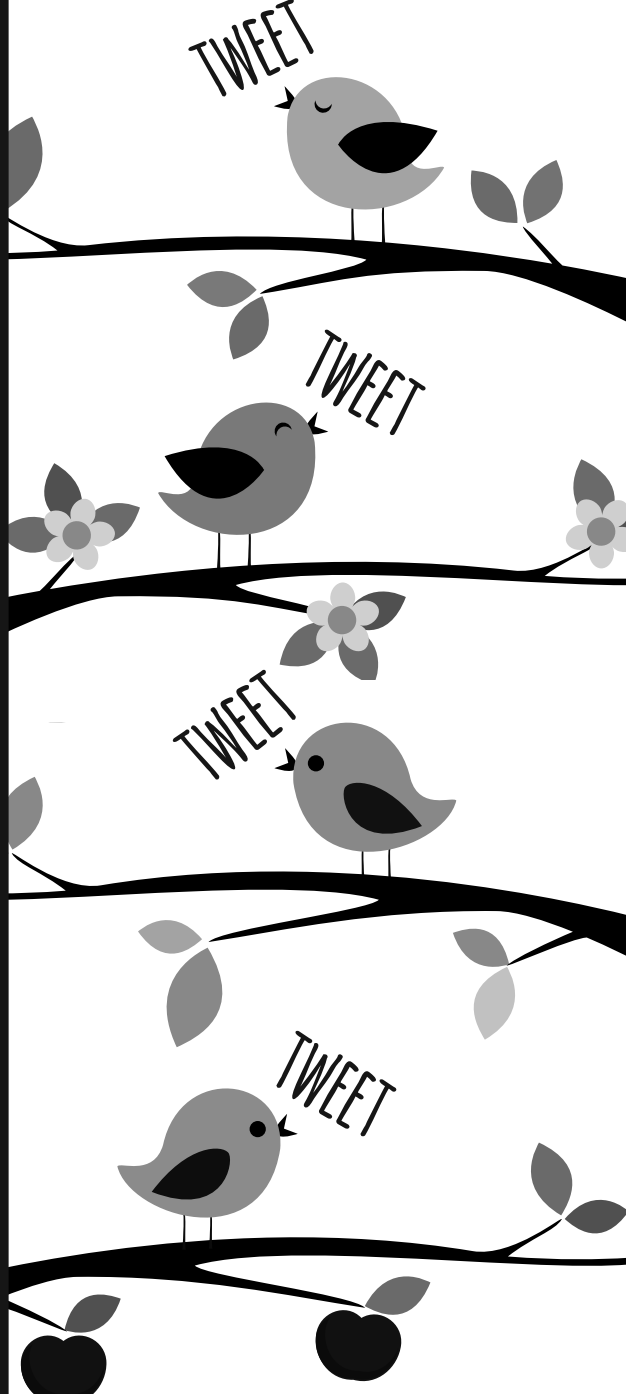


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	2	8		6	4		3	
		3				4		8
		9	8				6	
6	8	7	2		5			1
		1				2		
9			3		6	8	5	7
	3				8	9		
8		5				1		
	1		9	7		6	8	

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Rating: Bronze

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and the process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

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ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES:

3	1	5	9	8	6	2	7	4
4	9	8	7	2	1	5	3	6
6	7	2	5	3	4	8	9	1
2	8	6	1	7	9	3	4	5
1	3	9	2	4	5	6	8	7
5	4	7	3	6	8	1	2	9
8	5	1	4	9	2	7	6	3
9	6	3	8	5	7	4	1	2
7	2	4	6	1	3	9	5	8

B	M	W	S	O	R	K	I	N	S	A	M
B	A	R	T	P	H	O	T	O	S	A	C
B	R	I	D	G	E	M	A	T	C	H	A
X	T	E	R	R	A	A	R	A	B	I	A
B	E	A	C	H	C	L	O	B			
D	O	R	A	G	Y	O	U	G	I	R	T
O	B	E	R	O	N	W	K	S	T	A	R
L	A	D	R	E	D	M	E	A	T	S	I
E	M	I	R	T	A	U	O	H	S	T	O
S	A	D	A	T	B	C	C	I	P	A	S
H	O	T	S	H	O	S	H	O	E	R	
M	I	A	S	M	A	R	A	V	I	S	H
E	O	N	B	L	O	C	K	L	E	T	T
A	T	E	S	E	A	E	L	E	R	A	S
L	A	W	S	T	O	R	E	S	O	D	A

JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ILCAL  
NYTGA  
PPREEP  
DRUYEL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: S T I C K

(Answers tomorrow)

RUBES/Leigh Rubin

"Day in and day out, every hour on the hour, not one second early and not one second late. I'm tellin' you, Ma, it's enough to drive you, well ... you know."

IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore

"We'll be in touch. Next!"

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Bike Parts

ACROSS

- 1 Little troublemakers
- 5 Large boat
- 9 Cookie's chocolate morsel
- 13 Search for
- 14 Assistant
- 15 Talked nonstop
- 17 Odor-sensing organ
- 18 Toad's croaking relative
- 19 Excessive, as force
- 20 They hold a bike's tires
- 22 Polishes for publication
- 23 \_\_\_-fashioned (quaint)
- 24 "Finally!"
- 25 At a low speed
- 29 Kentucky Derby animal
- 31 Motion picture
- 32 Lather
- 33 Male pig
- 37 Turn \_\_\_ a new leaf
- 38 How "after-dinner" candy tastes
- 39 Up to a task
- 40 Bit of DNA
- 41 Change for a \$5 bill
- 42 Group of hatchlings
- 43 Close friend
- 45 Not fooled by
- 46 Highly adorned
- 49 Roadside assistance agency: Abbr.
- 50 Cook on a barbecue
- 51 Rod supporting a parked bike
- 57 "Great minds think \_\_\_"
- 58 Brief letter
- 59 A Great Lake

DOWN

- 1 Does not exist
- 2 Cat's complaint
- 3 Mexican coin
- 4 Distort, as facts
- 5 Without any risk
- 6 Gave employment to
- 7 Much-admired person
- 8 Wooden pins
- 9 Salad dressing bottles
- 10 Bike parts held while pedaling
- 11 Taj Mahal's country
- 12 Sulks
- 16 Home for hatchlings
- 21 Donut's center
- 24 General's fighting force
- 25 Air pollution
- 26 Valentine's Day emotion
- 27 Pizzeria appliance
- 28 Bike attachment for carrying things
- 29 Beehive product
- 30 Granola grains
- 32 Discover
- 34 Woodwind instrument
- 35 Very often
- 36 Start again with
- 38 Pie à la \_\_\_
- 42 Influence unfairly
- 44 Says aloud
- 45 Rises from sleep
- 46 Word-of-mouth
- 47 Jobs for performers
- 48 Too trusting
- 49 Performer in a film
- 51 Make a sweater with needles
- 52 Des Moines' state
- 53 School semester
- 54 Region
- 55 Tiny bites
- 56 Office furniture

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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: [tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords](http://tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords)

B.C./Mastroianni & Hart

UH...

REALLY, JOHN? SUPER GLUE?

NOW TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT MY VACATION.

LOLA/Todd Clark

WOW, AMY. YOU'RE A NATURAL.

I USED TO PLAY QUITE A BIT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.

WORK ON YOUR CUSSING GAME, AND YOU COULD GO PRO.

NOTED.

BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers

I LOCKED MYSELF OUT OF MY SAUCER. DO YOU HAVE A COAT HANGER?

ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell

I'VE CREATED A TALK SHOW FOR NICK.

I MADE THIS CARDBOARD DESK FOR HIM. I'LL HIDE BEHIND HIM AND BE HIS VOICE.

WANNA BE THE FIRST GUEST? I'M FILMING IT, AND THIS IS GONNA GO VIRAL.

LOOK AT HIM SMILE. HE'S A NATURAL.

I THINK THAT'S GAS.

THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens

HEY! LET'S USE THE OUIJA BOARD TO CONTACT OUR FUTURE SELVES!

OUIJA BOARDS ONLY CONTACT PEOPLE FROM THE PAST, NOT THE FUTURE.

IT'S NOT GONNA KNOW THE DIFFERENCE. IT'S JUST MADE OF CARDBOARD!

GOOD POINT.

ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer

REMEMBER WHAT MOM SAID BEFORE WE LEFT?

"DON'T SWING YOUR LEGS OVER A STREAM."

SHE'LL BE PROUD OF YOU PASQUALE.

DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni

OH, DEAR GOD! THE NETWORK IS OUT!

I CAN'T CHECK MY EMAIL! I CAN'T CHECK MY STATUS!

OH, MY GOD! OH, MY GOD! REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE FUN OF MY TENNIS BALL UNDER THE CHAIR INCIDENT?

HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley

MUNCH CRUNCH

YIKES!

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW OLD I GET...

THE MONKEYS IN "THE WIZARD OF OZ" ALWAYS FREAK ME OUT.

CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO USE THEM WHILE DRIVING, BUT I'VE FOUND THE ICY BRIGHTNESS OF THE SCREEN KEEPS ME AWAKE.

BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers

DINNER'S ON ME TONIGHT!

JUST LIKE ALWAYS!

FOR ONE FLEETING, FOOLISH, UNREALISTIC MOMENT, I THOUGHT SHE WAS PAYING!

DICK TRACY/Shelley Pleger & Mike Curtis

SOMETHING INTERESTING IN PIERCE'S EFFECTS?

POTENTIALLY. HE HAD THIS BOX IN HIS DESK, LOCKED, BUT THE KEY WAS ON HIM...

LIFTED PRINTS, FROM THE BOX AND THESE THUMB DRIVES, THAT MATCH HIS.

WHY? ASK THE COMPUTER FORENSICS TEAM WHAT THEY MAKE OF THESE...

POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan

YAP YAP YAP

YAP YAP YAP

YAP YAP

CLICK CLICK

NO FAIR! MY PEKINGESE SAMMED!

STRANGE BREW/John Deering

TREASURES OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum

"All in favor say, 'Aye'..."

All opposed say, 'Aye Yi Yi!'"

THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy

MR. SPIDER, ISN'T IT TRUE THAT YOU SAT DOWN BESIDE MISS MUFFET AND FRIGHTENED HER AWAY?

I OBJECT! HEARSAY!

OVERRAID!

PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee

YOU CAN CALL IT TACKLING IF YOU WANT, BUT IN MY FANTASY LEAGUE IT'S CALLED AGGRESSIVE CUDDLING.

BLISS/Harry Bliss

"So, at latitude 40.782865 and longitude 73.963455 there's a guy feeding from his hand."



## WNBA

**Liberty keep Mystics winless, clinch homecourt for cup title**

**NEW YORK** | Jonquel Jones scored 29 points and the New York Liberty beat the winless Washington Mystics 93-88 on Sunday to clinch homecourt in the Commissioner's Cup championship game.



The Liberty, who won the Commissioner's Cup last season, will host the Commissioner's Cup title game

on June 25. New York, which has won seven straight games, will play the top team in the Western Conference cup standings.

The Liberty led by two heading into the fourth quarter before they extended the lead to 86-79 with 4:03 left on a putback by Jones. Washington scored the only basket over the next 2:30 minutes until Sabrina Ionescu hit a 10-foot floater from the wing that made it 88-81 with 1:30 left.

Washington (0-12) scored the next five points and only trailed 88-86 with 24 seconds left. Ionescu hit the second of two free throws to make it a three-point game.

Washington has lost nine of its 12 games by single digits. The Mystics are still behind Atlanta's record 17-game losing streak to begin the 2008 season. The Mystics have been playing without stars Brittney Sykes (ankle) and Shakira Austin (hip).

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**Rutschman hits slam, drives in six as Orioles beat Rays**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.** | Grayson Rodriguez took a perfect game into the sixth inning, Adley Rutschman hit a grand slam and drove in six runs, and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Tampa Bay Rays 9-2 on Sunday.

Anthony Santander also homered for the Orioles, who lead the majors with 102. Baltimore has taken the first three-games-of the four-game set, and have won 13 of 17 overall.

Rodriguez (7-2) retired 15 in a row before walking Taylor Walls to begin the sixth. Yandy Diaz singled for the Rays' first hit with two outs before Brandon Lowe ended Rodriguez's day when he hit an RBI single to complete a 10-pitch at-bat.

Dillion Tate replaced Rodriguez and allowed an RBI single to Randy Arozarena that cut the Orioles lead to 3-2. He struck out Jonny DeLuca after walking Josh Lowe to load the bases.

Baltimore got both runs back in the seventh when Rutschman had an RBI single and Ryan Mountcastle hit a run-scoring grounder. Rutschman made it 9-2 on his base-loaded homer off Phil Maton in the eighth.

## AUTO RACING

**Verstappen wins third straight Canadian GP for 60th F1 win**

**MONTREAL** | Max Verstappen won the Canadian Grand Prix for the third straight year Sunday for the Red Bull star's 60th Formula 1 victory and sixth in nine races this season.

Verstappen started second in the rain alongside pole-sitter George Russell and dominated late again at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on Ile Notre-Dame. The 26-year-old Dutchman has a staggering 50 victories in the last 75 F1 races.

Verstappen finished 3.879 seconds ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris in the 70-lap race on the 2.71-mile (4.36-kilometer) road course. Last year, Verstappen started from the pole and led every lap.

## NFL

**Giants veteran tight end Waller retires at age 31**

New York Giants tight end Darren Waller announced his retirement from playing football on Sunday, saying he "found a lot of joy" in the sport, but "the passion has slowly been fading."

In a nearly 18-minute video posted on his YouTube channel, the 31-year-old Waller confirmed he's stepping away from the game after spending the last several months mulling his future.

The Giants had been waiting for Waller to decide whether he wanted to play this season. He had not attended the team's offseason workouts and mandatory minicamp begins Tuesday.

Waller detailed a "very scary" medical situation last November while dealing with an injury suffered in a game a few days earlier. He said he was going home in New Jersey after shooting a music video when he began feeling ill and later started "shaking like pretty violently" and couldn't breathe. He said he called 911 and ended up hospitalized for 3 1/2 days.

Waller, who dealt with hamstring issues the last three years, was limited to 12 games and had 52 catches for 552 yards and a touchdown in his only season with the Giants.

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS.

## OLYMPICS

**Kiwi rower gives up corporate life to pursue another medal**

## By TALES AZZONI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sitting behind a desk, noticing his body getting sore, Tom Mackintosh realized he needed to swap seats. Quickly.

After five months in the corporate world, the Olympic champion rower couldn't take it anymore. He decided it was time to get back in a boat and try to win another medal for New Zealand at the Paris Games.

"I'm not sure if you'd call it an epiphany or not, but one day my body was just very sore from sitting at the desk. I remember thinking that the Paris Olympics are only 16 months away and I'd spent as much time as I possibly could away from the sport," Mackintosh recalled. "If I wanted to come back, I needed to do it now."

Mackintosh won an Olympic gold medal with the New Zealand men's eight in Tokyo, then took time off rowing so he could work at an investment firm in Auckland. It didn't take long to realize his body wasn't built for a desk.

He'd been watching the national rowing championships on television at the office when a colleague asked how he'd compare himself with those still competing.



PHOTOSPORT VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

After five months in the corporate world, New Zealand rowing gold-medalist Tom Mackintosh is back on the boat to try to win another Olympic medal in Paris.

"I told him, 'I think I've been pretty competitive, having raced these guys my entire career,'" Mackintosh said. "And he responded, 'Well, Tom, to win the race, you'd have to be in the race.' And I'm thinking, 'that's a great point.' That was quite a moment for me."

The 27-year-old Mackintosh studied accounting, finance and management. He took the opportunity to intern for the investment firm where he worked together with analysts and research teams, getting a glimpse of corporate life.

At first, he didn't really want to return

to competition. But as time went on he said he started to miss rowing and "realized that it was a unique opportunity."

"It wasn't such a long timeframe for the Paris Olympics in the scheme of life, I might as well give it one more opportunity," he said of his thought process in that moment. "Not everyone in the world finds themselves with a chance to race in the Olympic Games. I looked to the future Tom and I feel like I would be annoyed with myself if I didn't come back."

Working gave him the insight to run the numbers over his rowing career as well.

"I was learning the value of time and investments," he said, "and I realized I've invested a lot of my body here."

Mackintosh said he does miss some of the greater freedom he had away from rowing, like being able to switch off for the weekend, reconnect with old friends and play more golf.

"Rowing is a full-time job," he said. "You have physio, recovery, stretching, meetings, all of that, so that adds up to the 40 hours a week that you might be essentially working. My body is my asset and I need to be physically fit and strong and capable to perform well in rowing," he said. "And so every decision that I

**NATIONALS**

From page B10

Waldrep surrendered seven runs in 3⅓ innings.

"It started out really good and baseball happened," Waldrep said. "I got some unlucky breaks and also gave up some hits I didn't need to give up and missed some pitches, walked some guys. It is what it is. It's part of the game."

The seven runs scored were the most in an inning for Washington since it had eight in the sixth inning at Kansas City on May 26, 2023.

Barnes (3-2) pitched a scoreless inning to earn the victory. Kyle Finnegan recorded the final three outs for his 18th save in 20 attempts after Jarred Kelenic's three-run homer off Jordan Weems in the ninth pulled the Braves within three.

Atlanta's Michael Harris II opened the scoring with an RBI single in the second before Washington starter DJ Herz's struggled with is command. Orlando Arcia walked on four pitches, and Herz's first pitch to Kelenic was up and in, but grazed Kelenic's bat. Kelenic took exception when Herz buzzed his head later in the at-bat. Herz's next throw was his second wild pitch of the inning, allowing Travis d'Arnaud to score.

Herz allowed two runs in 4⅓ innings in his second major league start.

Nationals right-handed pitcher Josiah Gray (forearm flexor strain) allowed three runs in three innings Sunday for Class-A Fredericksburg. Gray struck out



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nationals shortstop CJ Abrams high-fives second baseman Luis Garcia after Sunday's win. Abrams drove in three runs for the Nationals, who took three of four in the series.

two and walked one in the outing, his first since he was placed on the injured list April 9.

Washington is off Monday. The

Nationals will start left-handed pitcher Mitchell Parker (4-3, 3.47) when they begin a three-game series Tuesday at Detroit.

**NHL**

From page B10

players because of all aspects of the game. You could do all things right and still not stop them."

Or, like in Game 1, they can do just about everything right and still not score. Goalies can have that effect, and Bobrovsky was kryptonite for not only McDavid and Draisaitl but the rest of the Oilers, too.

McDavid afterward wondered if outshooting Florida 32-18 and losing was the

hockey gods getting back at them for the Western Conference Final clincher against Dallas in which Edmonton was outplayed but still came out on the winning end. Rather than give Bobrovsky too much credit, he made it about finding a way to break through and overcome some bad luck.

"Certainly like to bear down and find a way to get one," McDavid said. "Just make one more play — something. Find something that we that weren't able to find."

What the Oilers would love to find is a split of the first two games in Sunrise,

which would effectively make this series a best-of-five with the next two in front of their rabid fans who have not witnessed a final in person in nearly two decades.

What it will take is scoring on a goaltender who looked like he had a force field around the net, and winger Connor Brown expects McDavid and Draisaitl to set the tone in that department.

"There's no panic in our room right now," Brown said. "We feel like we had a great process last game. Obviously Bob came up with some big saves but just keep at it and keep pounding at the door and good things will happen."

**TENNIS**

From page B10

he seemed distracted by a complaint over the condition of the clay, telling chair umpire Renaud Lichtenstein it was "unbelievable."

But Alcaraz reset and ran away with it, taking 12 of the last 15 games while being treated by a trainer at changeovers for an issue with his left leg.

No. 3 Alcaraz and No. 4 Zverev were making their first appearance in a French Open final. Indeed, this was the first men's title match at Roland Garros since 2004 without at least one of Nadal, Novak Djokovic or Roger Federer.

**Gauff doubles up**

Coco Gauff is a Grand Slam champion in singles and doubles, something she did not expect to happen so soon.

The 20-year-old American won her first major doubles title on Sunday by teaming with Katerina Siniakova for the French Open trophy. They defeated Italians Jasmine Paolini and Sara Errani 7-6 (5), 6-3, giving Gauff her second major after winning the U.S. Open singles last year.

"I think it's just one of those things that when you least expect it to happen,

it happens," Gauff said, reflecting on her doubles triumph.

Victory finally came for Gauff in her third women's doubles final, having been the runner-up in championship matches at Roland Garros in 2022 and the U.S. Open in 2021.

"After I lost the first two (doubles) finals, I thought, well, okay, I reached that point, maybe I should focus on singles," Gauff said. "Same thing, U.S. Open. When I won it, I didn't expect to win. I was having a really bad year. Then here, I didn't even expect to play. I think it's funny how life teaches you those lessons."

**Queen of Roland Garros**

Iga Swiatek's made clear that she is a big fan of the TV series "Friends." She even got a chance to hit some tennis balls with actress Courteney Cox — who played Monica Geller on the show — shortly before the start of the French Open.

So on Saturday evening, a few hours after winning her fourth championship at Roland Garros and major trophy No. 5 overall, Swiatek was wearing custom-made white sneakers that her shoe sponsor stenciled with the words, "The One Where She Wins Her Fifth Grand Slam" in all capital letters, a nod to the names

given to the sitcom's episodes.

At the rate Swiatek is going, that celebratory flourish might need to be updated. And often. She only turned 23 a little more than a week ago, after all, and the way she is accumulating titles and overwhelming most opponents, particularly on clay, make it easy to assume there are more on the horizon.

"She's the queen here," said French Open tournament director Amelie Mauresmo, a former No. 1-ranked player who won two major titles.

Even before this latest triumph, capped by a 6-2, 6-1 win against Jasmine Paolini in Saturday's final, Chris Evert was prepared to say that her women's record of seven French Opens eventually will be surpassed by Swiatek, observing: "She just has all the ingredients to be a champion. She really does. She checks all the boxes - the intangibles and the tangibles."

Asked if she agreed with that assessment, Paolini let out a hearty laugh and replied, "Definitely."

Swiatek is far less likely to offer any such pronouncements.

"It's nice to hear such words about myself. But, still, I'm not thinking in these categories, because even being here and winning five Slams seems pretty surreal. I would never expect it when I was

make in my life has an impact on that. It's a full-time role essentially, 24-7."

After leaving the investment firm, Mackintosh went to Japan to row for a company team so he could transition back into competition. When he felt he was in form, he requested a trial for New Zealand's men's singles boat and ended up making the team.

He has shown good results since then despite the five months off. Mackintosh won the bronze at the 2023 World Championships and qualified the New Zealand boat for the Olympics.

With things going well after his time out of the sport, Mackintosh hasn't ruled out doing something similar with his work-life-sport balance in the next Olympic cycle.

"It's an avenue that I would like to explore," he said. "I know the commitment it requires. I know what it takes to win Olympic medals, and it's a big commitment. So that's something that you need to ask, have an honest conversation with yourself at some point in the future, as to whether you want to go down that path again."

And he'll also have to ask himself whether he'll have what it takes to go back behind a desk again, no matter what he ends up doing.

**GOLF**

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times on the PGA Tour before the U.S. Open.

That's next week at Pinehurst No. 2, and Scheffler will go to the U.S. Open as a huge favorite. This was his 11th consecutive tournament with a top 10.

Morikawa picked up \$2.2 million and now has a big cushion as he tries to sew up the fourth spot for the Americans going to Paris this summer for the Olympics.

Hadwin was within one shot of the lead until finishing the front nine with a pair of bogeys. He stayed in the hunt until closing with a pair of bogeys for a 74. Still, his third-place finish moves him ahead of Corey Connors for the second Canadian spot in the Olympics.

The world ranking after the U.S. Open determines who goes to Paris.

Scheffler had only one birdie — a 10-foot putt on the sixth hole — and he missed two birdie chances inside 10 feet on the back nine that could have provided a cushion.

But he made the biggest one on the par-3 16th.

Scheffler and Morikawa were both short of the super slick green some 90 feet away. Scheffler used putter and hit it weakly, coming up 15 feet short. Morikawa chipped from the collar and also hit a pedestrian chip some 20 feet short.

Morikawa missed his par putt, and Scheffler buried his for a two-shot lead.

Scheffler dropped his final shot on the 17th, however, and he was clinging again to a one-shot lead playing the tough 18th that he ended with one last putt.

Next up is the so-called toughest test in golf, and players felt like they just got finished with one at Muirfield Village.

"You could look at it one of two ways," Hadwin said. "Either it's good prep for next week or we just got our butts kicked before going into next week."

For Scheffler it's another victory, his 11th of his career and 12th worldwide. He has finished strong to win big or come from behind. He has pulled away when it was tight at the start. This time, he nearly lost a four-shot lead.

younger," said Swiatek, who is 35-2 over her career in Paris, including a current 21-match winning streak that made her the first woman with three straight titles there since Justine Henin in 2005-07.

"Getting to (double) digits here seems like still a long shot. So I'll for sure work for it and you can expect that I'll do my best to become a better and better player every year and to play my best tennis here," Swiatek said. "Hearing this from Chrissie is really great, and I'm grateful for her and her words."

In addition to winning four of the past five tournaments at Roland Garros, Swiatek collected the top prize at the 2022 U.S. Open. She's been a semifinalist at the Australian Open and a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon, where play begins on July 1.

Swiatek is now 43-4 with five titles this season, which means she's won more than half of the events she's entered, while reaching the semifinals at two others. At her past three tournaments, all on clay, she is 19-0, becoming the first woman since Serena Williams in 2013 to win the Madrid Open, Italian Open and French Open back-to-back-to-back.

Her lead atop the WTA rankings is so massive that she would have remained at No. 1 next week even with a first-round loss in Paris





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Edmonton center Connor McDavid and the Oilers were stymied by Panthers goalie Sergei Bobrovsky on Saturday in a Stanley Cup Final Game 1 shutout.

NHL

Oilers look to avoid Stanley Cup Final frustration

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. | Leon Draisaitl is nothing if not self-aware. Before the Stanley Cup Final, the versatile Edmonton Oilers forward acknowledged he's a good hockey player and has a special skillset that makes him that way. The day after he and Connor McDavid lost their first foray into the final, he had similar things to say about Florida Panthers goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky, who stymied Draisaitl and his teammates

Solving goalie key for McDavid, Draisaitl

in a 32-save shutout. "He's going to make some good saves," Draisaitl said. "He's a good goalie, and he's going to make some big-time saves — and knowing that is important." Knowledge is power, but that comes with the trappings of "Bob" getting into the Oilers heads. Their biggest challenge for Game 2 on Monday night also may be the key to evening the series: not letting the frustration get to them, a process that

starts with two of the NHL's best players leading the way. "We're always going to get our looks; we're always going to get our chances," Draisaitl said Sunday. "(It's about) not gripping our sticks too tight but continuing to play loose and continuing to play our game." Edmonton relies heavily on McDavid and Draisaitl, who combined for 10 shots in Game 1 on Saturday night. There's a

reason for that: One of them has won the Hart Trophy as league MVP in four of the past seven seasons. "You become desensitized to how good those two players are, and I understand why," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said. "You see it every night, and they are so dynamic and so special, but after a while you get used to it to the point that you'll start saying, 'Why doesn't it happen every shift?' Well, it almost does. They are truly, truly special

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NATIONALS

Nationals spoil debut for Braves pitcher

Ruiz 3-run homer sparks big inning

By PATRICK STEVENS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keibert Ruiz homered as part of a seven-run fourth inning and the Washington Nationals defeated the Atlanta Braves 8-5 on Sunday, spoiling the major league debut of Hurston Waldrep. CJ Abrams drove in three runs for Washington, which won the last three of four from Atlanta and improved to 6-2 this season against the Braves. "This group is fun, they play with a lot of energy and it showed in this last series," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "Seventeen games in a row without a day off, they're going out and battling and grinding. These last few games were amazing." Atlanta has dropped four of five and at 35-28 is nine games behind Philadelphia in the NL East. It is the first time the Braves are as few as seven games over .500 since being 12-5 on April 17. Waldrep, the Braves' first-round pick in the 2023 draft who was called up from Triple-A Gwinnett earlier Sunday, was undeterred by a 35-minute weather delay at the start. The 22-year-old right-hander breezed through three innings without allowing a hit. He is the fourth member of last year's draft class to reach the majors and the second pitcher — along with Pittsburgh's Paul Skenes — to do so. He was on the verge of escaping a two-on, one-out jam before Luis García Jr. poked an RBI single to left. Ruiz then smacked a first-pitch fastball for a three-run homer into the Nationals' bullpen, where reliever Jacob Barnes caught it between warmup pitches. "I feel a lot better at home plate than when I came back (from) the flu (in late April)," said Ruiz, who added a sacrifice fly in the fifth and is hitting .291 over his last 16 games, raising his average from .157 to .202. "I feel like I'm hitting the ball better." Waldrep (0-1) sandwiched two walks around a single to load the bases before ending his outing. Abrams hit reliever Aaron Bummer's first pitch into the right-field corner, scoring three runs and making it 7-2.

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Nationals catcher Keibert Ruiz runs the bases after smacking a first-pitch fastball for a three-run home run during a seven-run fourth inning in an 8-5 win over the Braves on Sunday. The seven runs were the Nationals' most in an inning since May 26, 2023.

GOLF

Scheffler holds on to win the Memorial

Earns fifth PGA Tour title of year

By DOUG FERGUSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN, OHIO | Scottie Scheffler had more stress than he wanted Sunday at the Memorial but still got the victory everyone has come to expect. On a Muirfield Village course so demanding only six players broke par, Scheffler had his highest final round in nearly two years at 2-over 74, and it was just enough to hold off Collin Morikawa and win for the fifth time this year. Scheffler, who started the final round four shots ahead, never lost the lead. He never felt safe, either, particularly on a back nine where saving par felt like hard work. That's what it took on the 18th hole. He was leading Morikawa by one shot and both hit approach shots that bounced hard and high off the green and into the rough. Both chipped to about 5 feet. Scheffler buried his putt to win, and the force of his fist pump to celebrate showed how tough this day was on him, and practically everybody. Making the day even more special was the handshake with tournament host Jack Nicklaus, and cradling month-old son Bennett at his first PGA Tour event. "This is a tough place to close out," Scheffler said. "It was a fun test of golf. I like when it gets this hard. I didn't do a whole lot great today, but I did enough." Just barely. Morikawa, who played in the final group of both majors this year, holed a 30-foot birdie putt on the par-3 12th hole and stayed on Scheffler's heels the rest of the way. He shot 71, the only one from the final 13 groups to break par. Adam Hadwin was right there with them until closing with three straight bogeys for a 74 to finish alone in third. Scheffler finished at 8-under 280 and won \$4 million from this signature event and its \$20 million purse. That pushes him over \$24 million for the year, breaking the PGA Tour season earnings record - and it's barely June - that he set last year in this era of rising purses. He also become the first player since Tom Watson in 1980 to have won five

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TENNIS

Alcaraz wins French Open for his third Grand Slam title

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS | As Carlos Alcaraz began constructing his comeback in Sunday's French Open final, a 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 victory over Alexander Zverev for a first championship at Roland Garros and third Grand Slam title in all, there arrived the sort of magical shot the kid is making a regular part of his varied repertoire. It was a running, then sliding, down-the-line, untouchable forehand passing winner that Alcaraz celebrated by thrusting his right index finger overhead in a

"No. 1" sign, then throwing an uppercut while screaming, "Vamos!" No, he is not ranked No. 1 at the moment — the man he beat in the semifinals, Jannik Sinner, makes his debut at the top spot on Monday - but Alcaraz has been there before and, although a "2" will be beside his name next week, there is little doubt that he is as good as it gets in men's tennis right now. And more accomplished than any other man ever has been at his age. Alcaraz is a 21-year-old from Spain who grew up running home from school to watch on TV as countryman Rafael

Nadal was accumulating trophy after trophy at Roland Garros — a record 14 — and he just eclipsed Nadal as the youngest man to collect major championships on three surfaces. Nadal was about 1½ years older when he did it. "Now," Alcaraz told his parents, who were at Court Philippe Chatrier on Sunday, "I am lifting this trophy in front of you." Alcaraz adds that one from the clay-court Slam to a collection of hardware that includes triumphs on hard courts at the U.S. Open in 2022 and on grass at Wimbledon in 2023. He is 3-0 in major

Slam finals. "It's an amazing career already. You're already a Hall of Famer. You already achieved so much — and you're only 21 years old," said Zverev, a 27-year-old from Germany who is 0-2 in major title matches. "Incredible player. Not the last time you're going to win this." Zverev, who entered the day on a 12-match winning streak, faltered after surging in front by reeling off the last five games of the third set. Alcaraz's level dipped during that stretch and

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Carlos Alcaraz sits in celebration after rallying to beat Alexander Zverev, 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2, on Sunday to win the French Open in Paris.